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Bil. 9



Hari Isnin
18hb November, 1974

PENYATA RASMI PARLIMEN
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DEWAN RAKYAT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PARLIMEN KEEMPAT
Fourth Parliament

PENGGAL PERTAMA
First Session

KANDUNGANNYA

JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN MULUT BAGI PERTANYAAN-PERTANYAAN
[Ruangan 725]

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG:

Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 [Ruangan 737]

USUL-USUL:

Anggaran Pembangunan, 1975 [Ruangan 737]

Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat [Ruangan 736]

MALAYSIA

DEWAN RAKYAT YANG KEEMPAT

Penyata Rasmi Parlimen

PENGGAL YANG PERTAMA

Hari Isnin, 18hb November, 1974

Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 2.30 petang

YANG HADIR:

- Yang Berhormat Tuan Yang di-Pertua, TAN SRI HAJI NIK AHMED KAMIL, D.K., P.M.N., S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K.
- Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri, Menteri Luar Negeri dan Menteri Pertahanan, TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK BIN DATUK HUSSEIN, S.M.N., K.O.M. (Pekan).
- Yang Berhormat Menteri Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar, TUAN ABDUL GHAFAR BIN BABA (Alor Gajah).
- „ Menteri Buruh dan Tenaga Rakyat, DATUK LEE SAN CHOON, S.P.M.J., K.M.N. (Segamat).
- „ Menteri Tanah dan Galian dan Tugas-tugas Khas, DATUK HAJI MOHAMED ASRI BIN HAJI MUDA, S.P.M.K., S.P.D.K. (Nilam Puri).
- „ Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri, TAN SRI HAJI MUHAMMAD GHAZALI BIN SHAFIE, P.M.N., D.I.M.P., P.D.K. (Lipis).
- „ Menteri Undang-undang dan Peguam Negara, TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR BIN YUSOF, P.M.N. (Tenggaroh).
- „ Menteri Perancangan Am dan Penyelidikan Sosio-Ekonomi, DATUK HAJI ABDUL TAIB BIN MAHMUD, P.G.D.K. (Samarahan).
- „ Menteri Penerangan dan Tugas-tugas Khas bagi Hal Ehwal Luar Negeri, Y.M. TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDEEN AL-HAJ BIN TENGGU ISMAIL, P.M.K. (Kota Bharu).
- „ Menteri Tenaga, Teknologi dan Penyelidikan, TUAN HAJI MOHAMED BIN YAACOB, P.M.K., S.M.T. (Tanah Merah).
- „ Menteri Perumahan dan Kampung-kampung Baru, TUAN MICHAEL CHEN WING SUM (Ulu Selangor).
- „ Menteri Perusahaan Utama, DATUK MUSA HITAM, S.P.M.J. (Labis).
- „ Menteri Pelajaran, DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD (Kubang Pasu).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri, DATUK ABDUL SAMAD BIN IDRIS, J.M.N., A.M.N., P.J.K. (Kuala Pilah).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Buruh dan Tenaga Rakyat, TUAN HAJI HASSAN ADLI BIN HAJI ARSHAD (Bagan Datok).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Pelajaran, TUAN CHAN SIANG SUN, J.S.M., A.M.N., P.J.K., J.P. (Bentong).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Kewangan, TAN SRI CHONG HON NYAN, P.S.M., J.M.N. (Batu Berendam).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Jabatan Perdana Menteri, DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD (Machang).

- Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar, TUAN MOKHTAR BIN HAJI HASHIM (Tampin).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Kesihatan, TUAN ABU BAKAR BIN UMAR (Kota Setar).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Kerja Raya dan Pengangkutan, TUAN RICHARD HO UNG HUN (Lumut).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Perusahaan Utama, TUAN PAUL LEONG KHEE SEONG (Taiping).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Perdana Menteri, TUAN ABDULLAH BIN MAJID, K.M.N. (Raub).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Buruh dan Tenaga Rakyat, TUAN S. SUBRAMANIAM (Damansara).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Perdagangan dan Perindustrian, TUAN MUSTAPHA BIN ALI (Kuala Trengganu).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Perdana Menteri, DR GOH CHENG TEIK (Nibong Tebal).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Tenaga, Teknologi dan Penyelidikan, DR NEO YEE PAN (Muar).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Perumahan dan Kampung-kampung Baru, TUAN MOHD. ALI BIN M. SHARIF (Kuantan).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Kebudayaan, Belia dan Sukan, TUAN RAIS BIN YATIM (Jelebu).
- „ Tuan (Timbalan) Yang di-Pertua, TAN SRI SYED NASIR BIN ISMAIL, P.M.N., D.P.M.J., D.P.M.P., J.M.N., P.I.S. (Pagoh).
- „ TUAN HAJI NIK ABDUL AZIZ BIN NIK MAT, K.M.N., J.P. (Pengkalan Chepa).
- „ TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ BIN YEOP (Padang Rengas).
- „ TUAN ABDUL JALAL BIN HAJI ABU BAKAR, A.M.N. (Batu Pahat).
- „ TUAN HAJI ABDUL RASHID BIN HAJI JAIS, A.D.K. (Ulu Padas).
- „ TUAN HAJI ABDUL WAHAB BIN YUNUS (Dungun).
- „ PENGHULU ABIT ANAK ANGKIN, P.P.N. (Kapit).
- „ TUAN ABU BAKAR BIN ARSHAD (Hilir Perak).
- „ TUAN HAJI AHMAD BIN HAJI ITHNIN (Jasin).
- „ TUAN HAJI AHMAD SHUKRI BIN HAJI ABD. SHUKOR (Padang Terap).
- „ TUAN ARIFFIN BIN HAJI DAUD (Permatang Pauh).
- „ TUAN AU HOW CHEONG (Telok Anson).
- „ TUAN AZAHARI BIN MD. TAIB, J.S.M., A.M.N., S.M.K., J.P. (Kulim-Bandar Bahru).
- „ TUAN AZHARUL ABIDIN BIN HAJI ABDUL RAHIM (Batang Padang).
- „ TUAN BUJA BIN GUMBILAI (Tuaran).
- „ DR CHEN MAN HIN (Seremban).
- „ TUAN CHIAN HENG KAI (Batu Gajah).
- „ TUAN CHIENG TIONG KAI *alias* CHIENG SIE LUNG (Sarikei).
- „ TUAN CHIN HON NGIAN (Rengam).
- „ TUAN RICHARD DAMPENG ANAK LAKI (Serian).
- „ TUAN EDWIN ANAK TANGKUN, A.B.S. (Batang Lupar).
- „ TUAN EMBONG BIN YAHYA, A.M.N. (Ledang).
- „ TUAN FARN SEONG THAN (Sungai Besi).
- „ DATIN HAJAH FATIMAH BINTI HAJI ABDUL MAJID, J.M.N., P.I.S. (Semerah).
- „ TUAN HAJI HADADAK BIN HAJI D. PASAUK (Simunjan).

Yang Berhormat TUAN HASHIM BIN GHAZALI (Matang).

- „ DATUK NIK HASSAN BIN ABDUL RAHMAN, S.P.M.T., P.S.D., K.M.N. (Kuala Nerus).
- „ TUAN SYED HASSAN BIN SYED MOHAMED (Arau).
- „ TUAN HISHAMUDDIN BIN HAJI YAHAYA (Maran).
- „ TAN SRI SYED JA'AFAR ALBAR, P.M.N., D.P.M.J. (Panti).
- „ TUAN JA'AFAR BIN HAMZAH, P.I.S. (Johor Bahru).
- „ TUAN HAJI JAMIL BIN ISHAK, P.J.K. (Tanjong Karang).
- „ TUAN JAWAN ANAK EMPALING (Rajang).
- „ TUAN JONATHAN NARWIN ANAK JINGGONG (Lubok Antu).
- „ TUAN EDMUND LANGGU ANAK SAGA, P.B.S. (Saratok).
- „ TUAN LATIP BIN HAJI DRIS (Mukah).
- „ TUAN LEE BOON PENG, A.M.N., J.P., P.J.K. (Mantin).
- „ TUAN LEE LAM THYE (Kuala Lumpur Bandar).
- „ TUAN LEO MOGGIE ANAK IROKE (Kanowit).
- „ TUAN LIBEN ANAK KATO *alias* WAIRY LEBEN ANAK KATO (Betong).
- „ TUAN LIM KIT SIANG (Kota Melaka).
- „ DATUK LIM PUI HO, P.G.D.K., J.P., B.K. (Sandakan).
- „ TUAN WALTER LOH POH KHAN (Selayang).
- „ DATUK PETER LO SU YIN, P.G.D.K. (Gaya).
- „ TUAN LUHAT WAN (Baram).
- „ TUAN LUKMAN BIN ABDUL KADIR (Ulu Nerus).
- „ TUAN MADINA BIN UNGGUT (Bandau).
- „ DATUK ALBERT MAH, K.M.N., D.M.P.N., P.J.K. (Bukit Bendera).
- „ TUAN MAK HON KAM, A.M.P. (Tanjong Malim).
- „ TUAN MOHAMED SOPIEE BIN SHEIKH IBRAHIM, J.M.N. (Kepala Batas).
- „ TUAN MOHD. BAKRI BIN ABDUL RAIS (Parit).
- „ TUAN MOHD. IDRIS BIN HAJI IBRAHIM (Setapak).
- „ TUAN MOHD. SALLEH BIN DATUK PANGLIMA ABDULLAH (Silam).
- „ TUAN HAJI MOHD. ZAIN BIN ABDULLAH (Bachok).
- „ DATUK ENSKU MUHSEIN BIN ABDUL KADIR, D.P.M.T., J.M.N. (Ulu Trengganu).
- „ DATUK SYED NAHAR BIN TUN SYED SHEH SHAHABUDDIN, D.P.M.K., K.M.N. (Jerlun-Langkawi).
- „ RAJA NASRON BIN RAJA ISHAK, P.J.K. (Kuala Selangor).
- „ TUAN NGAN SIONG HING (Kinta).
- „ TENGKU NOOR ASIAH BINTI TENGKU AHMAD (Tumpat).
- „ TUAN OH KENG SENG (Petaling).
- „ PUAN OON ZARIAH BINTI ABU BAKAR, A.M.N., A.M.P., P.J.K. (Kuala Kangsar).
- „ TUAN OO GIN SUN (Alor Setar).
- „ TUAN PANG SUI CHEE *alias* ALEX PANG (Tawau).
- „ TUAN K. PATHMANABAN, K.M.N. (Telok Kemang).
- „ TUAN RACHA UMONG (Limbang-Lawas).
- „ TUAN RASIAH RAJASINGAM (Jelutong).
- „ TUAN S. SAMY VELLU, A.M.N. (Sungai Siput).
- „ TUAN SANUSI BIN JUNID (Jerai).

- Yang Berhormat DATUK SENU BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (Kuala Kedah).
- „ TUAN SHAARI BIN JUSOH, P.P.N., P.P.M. (Kangar).
- „ TUAN HAJI SHAFIE BIN ABDULLAH, A.M.N., B.C.K., P.B.S., J.P. (Baling).
- „ TUAN SHAMSUDDIN BIN DIN, P.P.N. (Gerik).
- „ TUAN SHAMSURI BIN MD. SALEH, A.M.N., J.P. (Balik Pulau).
- „ TUAN SIBAT ANAK TAGONG *alias* SIBUT MIYUT ANAK TAGONG (Ulu Rajang).
- „ TUAN THOMAS SALANG SIDEN (Julau).
- „ TUAN HAJI SUHAIMI BIN DATUK HAJI KAMARUDDIN (Sepang).
- „ WAN SULAIMAN BIN HAJI IBRAHIM, S.M.K. (Pasir Puteh).
- „ TUAN SULAIMAN BIN HAJI TAIB (Parit Buntar).
- „ TUAN SU LIANG YU (Bruas).
- „ PENGIRAN TAHIR BIN PENGIRAN PATERA (Kimanis).
- „ DR TAN CHEE KHOON (Kepong).
- „ TUAN TAN CHENG BEE, A.M.N., J.P. (Bukit Mertajam).
- „ TUAN WEE HO SOON (Bandar Sibul).
- „ TUAN YANG SIEW SIANG (Miri-Subis).
- „ TUAN HAJI YUSOF RAWA *alias* HAJI YUSOF BIN HAJI ABDULLAH, J.P. (Ulu Muda).
- „ TENGKU ZAID AL-HAJ BIN TENGKU AHMAD, D.P.M.K., J.M.K., S.M.K. (Pasir Mas).
- „ WAN ZAINAB BINTI M. A. BAKAR, A.M.N., P.J.K. (Sungai Petani).
- „ TUAN ZAKARIA BIN HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN (Besut).
- „ TUAN HAJI ZAKARIA BIN ISMAIL (Rantau Panjang).

YANG TIDAK HADIR:

- Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Menteri Kewangan dan Menteri Penyelarasan Perbadanan Awam, DATUK HUSSEIN BIN DATUK ONN, S.P.M.J., P.I.S. (Sri Gading).
- Yang Berhormat Menteri Perhubungan, TAN SRI MANICKAVASAGAM, P.M.N., S.P.M.S., J.M.N., P.J.K. (Pelabuhan Kelang).
- „ Menteri Perdagangan dan Perindustrian, DATUK HAJI HAMZAH BIN DATUK ABU SAMAH, S.M.K., D.S.R., S.I.M.P. (Temerloh).
- „ Menteri Kerajaan Tempatan dan Alam Sekitar, DATUK ONG KEE HUI, P.N.B.S. (Bandar Kuching).
- „ Menteri Kerja Raya dan Pengangkutan, DATUK HAJI ABDUL GHANI BIN GILONG, P.D.K., J.P. (Kinabalu).
- „ Menteri Kesihatan, TAN SRI LEE SIOK YEW, P.M.N., A.M.N., P.J.K. (Ulu Langat).
- „ Menteri Kebajikan Am, PUAN HAJAH AISHAH BINTI HAJI ABDUL GHANI (Kuala Langat).
- „ Menteri Kebudayaan, Belia dan Sukan, DATUK ALI BIN HAJI AHMAD, S.P.M.J., S.M.J. (Pontian).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Penerangan, TUAN SHARIFF AHMAD, J.M.N. (Jerantut).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Perhubungan, DATUK HAJI WAN ABDUL KADIR BIN ISMAIL, D.P.M.T., P.P.T. (Kemaman).

- Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri Penyelarasan Perbadanan Awam, DATUK MOHAMED BIN RAHMAT, D.P.M.J., K.M.N. (Pulai).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar, DATUK HAJI MUSTAPHA BIN HAJI ABDUL JABAR, D.P.M.S., J.M.N., J.P. (Sabak Bernam).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Jabatan Perdana Menteri, DATUK SRI HAJI KAMARUDDIN BIN HAJI MAT ISA (Larut).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Tanah dan Galian, DR SULAIMAN BIN HAJI DAUD (Santubong).
- „ Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Perhubungan, TUAN HAJI RAMLI BIN OMAR, P.M.P., K.M.N. (Bagan Serai).
- „ DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL-RAHMAN BIN YA'KUB, D.P., P.N.B.S., S.I.M.P. (Payang).
- „ PENGIRAN AHMAD BIN PENGIRAN INDAR (Kinabatangan).
- „ TUAN AJAD BIN O. T. OYUNG (Labuk Sugut).
- „ TUAN STEPHEN ROBERT EVANS (Keningau).
- „ TUAN FAN YEW TENG (Menglembu).
- „ DR HEE THIAN LYE *alias* HEE TIEN LAI (Ayer Hitam).
- „ TUAN LEW SIP HON, K.M.N. (Shah Alam).
- „ TUAN LIM CHO HOCK (Ipoh).
- „ DR LIM CHONG EU (Tanjong).
- „ TUAN LIM AH YING *alias* LIM KIAM HOON (Padang Serai).
- „ DR LING LIONG SIK (Mata Kuching).
- „ TUAN LOH FOOK YEN (Kluang).
- „ TUAN HAJI MOHAMED KHIR JOHARI (Kuala Muda).
- „ TAN SRI HAJI MOHAMED SAID BIN KERUAK, P.M.N., S.P.D.K. (Kota Belud).
- „ TUAN HAJI MOHD. TAUFECK BIN O. K. K. HAJI ASNEH (Hilir Padas).
- „ TUAN MOHD. ZAHARI BIN AWANG (Kuala Krai).
- „ TUN DATU HAJI MUSTAPHA BIN DATU HARUN, S.M.N., P.D.K., K.V.O., O.B.E. (Marudu).
- „ TUAN PATRICK ANEK UREN (Bau-Lundu).
- „ TENGGU RAZALEIGH BIN TENGGU MOHD. HAMZAH, S.P.M.K., P.S.M. (Ulu Kelantan).
- „ TUAN JAMES STEPHEN TIBOK, A.D.K. (Penampang).
- „ TUAN TING LING KIEW (Bintulu).
- „ DATUK STEPHEN YONG KUET TZE, P.N.B.S. (Padawan).

YANG HADIR BERSAMA:

- Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri Undang-undang, DATUK ATHI NAHAPPAN, D.P.M.S. (Dilantik).
- „ Timbalan Menteri Pertahanan, DATUK HAJI DZULKIFLI BIN DATUK HAJI ABDUL HAMID, A.S.D.K., A.M.N. (Dilantik).

DEWAN RAKYAT

PEGAWAI-PEGAWAI KANAN

Setiausaha Dewan Rakyat: Datuk Azizul Rahman bin Abdul Aziz.

Timbalan Setiausaha: Haji A. Hasmuni bin Haji Hussein.

Penolong Setiausaha: Mohd. Salleh bin Abu Bakar.

Penterjemah Melayu Kanan/Pemangku Penolong Setiausaha: Ghazali bin Haji Abd. Hamid.

BAHAGIAN PENYATA RASMI PARLIMEN

Penyunting: Yahya Manap.

Penolong Penyunting: P. B. Menon.

Penolong Penyunting: Osman bin Sidik.

Pemberita-pemberita:

N. Ramaswamy.

Louis Yeoh Sim Ngoh.

Abdul Rahman bin Haji Abu Samah.

Rani bin Rahim.

Suhor bin Husin.

Jamaludin bin Haji Ali.

Amran bin Ahmad.

Mohd. Saleh bin Mohd. Yusof.

Margaret Chye Kim Lian.

Quah Mei Lan.

Puan Kong Yooi Thong.

Juliah binti Awam.

Supiah binti Dewak.

Ismail bin Hassan.

BENTARA MESYUARAT

Mejar (B) Musa bin Alang Ahmad.

DOA

(Tuan Yang di-Pertua *mempengerusikan Mesyuarat*)

JAWAPAN-JAWAPAN MULUT BAGI PERTANYAAN- PERTANYAAN

HARTA TAHUNAN MENTERI- MENTERI/AHLI-AHLI DEWAN RAKYAT

1. Tuan Lee Lam Thye minta Perdana Menteri menyatakan samada beliau akan menimbang mengadakan undang-undang memaksa semua Menteri, dan Ahli-ahli Dewan Rakyat daripada kedua-dua Barisan Nasional dan Pembangkang supaya mengumumkan harta tahunan mereka.

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, perkara ini telah pernah dibangkitkan dalam Dewan ini, iaitu pada 16hb April, 1974 sebagai usul yang telahpun ditolak oleh Dewan ini pada ketika itu. Saya telah menerangkan sebab-sebab mengapa perkara ini tidak payah diadakan.

Walau bagaimanapun, saya suka menegaskan sekali lagi iaitu, mengikut peraturan yang dijalankan sekarang, semua Menteri-menteri, Timbalan-timbalan Menteri, Menteri-menteri Besar, Ketua-ketua Menteri, Setiausaha-setiausaha Parlimen, dan Setiausaha-setiausaha Politik adalah dikehendaki melapurkan kepada Perdana Menteri segala harta mereka semasa mula-mula memegang jawatan dan seterusnya harta yang mereka perolehi dari masa ke semasa.

Berkenaan dengan Ahli-ahli Parlimen Barisan Nasional pula, oleh kerana mereka tidak memegang apa-apa jawatan bergaji yang mempunyai "executive powers", maka tidaklah perlu mereka memberitahu harta mereka kepada Perdana Menteri, akan tetapi kawalan tatatertib mereka diadakan melalui parti "network".

Bagi Ahli-ahli Parlimen dari Parti Pembangkang, terpujanglah kepada Parti mereka sendiri untuk menentukan perkara ini. Dalam penganalisan terakhir (in the final analysis) dalam sesebuah negara yang mengamalkan demokrasi berparlimen, terpujanglah kepada rakyat yang telah memilih wakil-wakil

mereka dan meletakkan kepercayaan mereka untuk menentukan bahawa wakil-wakil mereka tidak menyeleweng daripada tugas-tugas dan tanggungjawab mereka kepada rakyat.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Soalan tambahan. Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri menyatakan Wakil-wakil Rakyat tidak mempunyai "executive powers", sebab itu tidak perlulah mereka melapurkan harta-hartanya kepada Kerajaan. Saya hendak bertanya kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri, adakah beliau sedar ada Wakil Rakyat memegang jawatan "executive", umpamanya, badan-badan berkanun. Oleh sebab itu, bukankah perlu semua Wakil-wakil Rakyat di dalam Dewan ini melapurkan hartanya kepada Kerajaan?

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya telah terangkan tadi iaitu Wakil-wakil Rakyat yang tidak ada memegang jawatan mereka itu tidak mempunyai kuasa dan mereka itu tidak mempunyai gaji penuh atau full time salary, jadi tentulah tidak adil kalau mereka itu dikehendaki declare ataupun mengisytiharkan harta-harta mereka itu. Bagi Wakil-wakil Rakyat yang memegang jawatan yang disebutkan itu, jawatan-jawatan itu jawatan part-time dan mereka itu tidak ada mempunyai kuasa "executive" dalam jawatan-jawatan itu.

KEMENTERIAN HAL EHWAL PENGGUNA

2. Tuan Lim Kit Siang minta Perdana Menteri menyatakan samada beliau akan menimbang menubuhkan sebuah Kementerian Hal Ehwal Pengguna untuk memperindungi pengguna-pengguna dari ditipu, baik di peringkat harga dan mutu oleh pengusaha-pengusaha, pengilang-pengilang dan monopoli-monopoli.

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sebagaimana Ahli Yang Berhormat maklum, Kementerian Perdagangan dan Perindustrian telah pun menubuhkan Majlis Penasihat Pelindung Pengguna Kebangsaan mengikut Akta Kawalan Harga (Pindaan), 1974 dengan tanggungjawab memberi nasihat kepada Kerajaan supaya beberapa langkah-langkah dapat diambil bagi melindungi kepentingan pengguna dan mengawal inflasi secara langsung ataupun tidak langsung. Buat pada

masa ini saya berpendapat bahawa usaha-usaha Majlis tersebut dan tugas-tugas Bahagian-bahagian lain dalam Kementerian tersebut dengan dibantu oleh usaha-usaha Kementerian-kementerian dan Jabatan-jabatan lain adalah mencukupi untuk melindungi pengguna-pengguna di negara ini.

Tuan Lim Kit Siang: Soalan tambahan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua. Adakah Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri sedar bahawa Majlis Penasihat Pelindung Pengguna Kebangsaan tidak berkesan (ineffective) untuk mengawal dan mencegah inflasi dan kenaikan harga-harga barang yang kita nampak tidak berhenti-henti termasuk barang-barang keperluan seperti gula dan tepung gandum baharu-baharu ini. Bolehkah Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri menyatakan bagaimana harga-harga barang boleh dikawal jika suara pengguna-pengguna tidak didengar atau ditimbangkan dengan teliti sebelum Kerajaan meluluskan harga barang-barang keperluan? Ini boleh dibuat jika diadakan satu Kementerian Hal-Ehwal Pengguna.

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Majlis Penasihat Pelindung Pengguna Kebangsaan tentulah tidak boleh dengan sendirinya hendak mengawal kenaikan harga-harga barang. Majlis ini hanyalah boleh menasihatkan kepada Kerajaan di atas langkah-langkah yang patut diambil dan terpujalah kepada Kerajaan untuk menimbang dan melaksanakan langkah-langkah itu. Masaalah kenaikan harga barang adalah satu masaalah yang rumit yang telah pun diterangkan tiap-tiap kali di Dewan ini, dan saya fikir perkara ini besar, kalau hendak dibangkitkan boleh dibangkitkan dalam perbahasan Belanjawan ini supaya dapat pihak Menteri-menteri menjawab dengan jelas di atas hal ini.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Soalan tambahan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua. Adakah Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri sedar bahawa Yang Berhormat Menteri Perdagangan dan Perindustrian sendiri telah mengakui kenaikan semua harga barang-barang keperluan umpamanya gula dan tepung gandum perkara itu bukan diserahkan kepada Majlis Penasihat Perlindungan Pengguna. Oleh sebab itu, perlu Kerajaan menubuhkan sebuah Kementerian Hal Ehwal Pengguna.

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya fikir kuasa-kuasa berkenaan hal ini adalah di dalam tangan Kementerian Perdagangan dan Perindustrian dan Kementerian

ini boleh menjalankan tugasnya berkenaan dengan perkara ini, dan tidaklah perlu diadakan satu Kementerian yang khas berkait dengan perkara ini.

SYARIKAT-SYARIKAT MINYAK— HARGA

3. Tuan Lim Kit Siang minta Perdana Menteri menyatakan samada syarikat-syarikat minyak di Malaysia telah meminta untuk menaikkan harga keluaran-keluaran minyak, dan jika ia, nyatakan butir-butir lanjut.

Perdana Menteri: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, buat masa ini tidak ada syarikat-syarikat minyak yang meminta untuk menaikkan harga keluaran-keluaran minyak.

Tuan Lim Kit Siang: Soalan tambahan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua. Adakah Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri sedar bahawa ada syarikat-syarikat minyak telah mengurangkan bekalan minyak petrol kepada petrol station, dan daripada amalan yang terdahulu sebelum harga satu-satu barang itu naik kekurangan bekalan akan timbul daripada manipulation syarikat-syarikat itu. Adakah kekurangan bekalan petrol sekarang ini satu langkah yang pertama sebelum syarikat minyak meminta atau mendesak Kerajaan supaya membenarkan kenaikan harga petrol?

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Soalan itu tidak bersangkutan dengan soalan asal.

PERUTUSAN DIPLOMATIK PEKING— KUALA LUMPUR

4. Dr Chen Man Hin minta Menteri Luar Negeri menyatakan samada penubuhan atas kedua belah pihak perutusan diplomatik antara Kuala Lumpur dan Peking telah selesai diadakan dan jika ya, bilakah sekatan perjalanan akan ditamatkan, bagi mengatasi kelambatan atau kesusahan kepada rakyat Malaysia yang ingin melawat Negeri China.

Menteri Penerangan dan Tugas-tugas Khas bagi Hal Ehwal Luar Negeri (Tengku Ahmad Rithauden Al-Haj): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kedua-dua buah negara telahpun menubuhkan perutusan diplomatik mereka masing-masing di Peking dan Kuala Lumpur dan penempatan Duta-duta akan berlangsung tidak berapa lama lagi. Mengenai soal membatalkan sekatan-sekatan perjalanan, saya menasihatkan Ahli Yang Berhormat

merujuk kepada jawapan yang diberi oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri kepada pertanyaan mulut No. 7 bertarikh 6 November, 1974.

HUBUNGAN DIPLOMATIK DENGAN KOREA UTARA/VIETNAM UTARA

5. **Tuan Ngan Siong Hing** minta Menteri Luar Negeri menyatakan samada Kementerian Luar Negeri telah sejauh ini mengambil sebarang langkah untuk mengadakan hubungan diplomatik dengan Korea Utara dan Vietnam Utara.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Al-Haj: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, untuk makluman Ahli Yang Berhormat, Malaysia telahpun menubuhkan perhubungan diplomatik dengan Republik Rakyat Demokratik Korea semenjak Jun 1973, dan dengan Republik Demokratik Vietnam semenjak Mac 1973.

KERAJAAN PERPADUAN NEGARA KHMER (GRUNK)

6. **Tuan Farn Seong Than** (*di bawah S.O. 24* (2)) minta Menteri Luar Negeri menyatakan mengapa Kerajaan masih terus-menerus enggan mengiktirafkan GRUNK, Kerajaan Perpaduan Negara Khemar Di Raja, yang diketuai oleh Putera Norodom Sihanouk dan menyokong kemasukannya ke Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu bila mana lebih dari separuh daripada negara-negara progresif di dunia sudah berbuat demikian.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Al-Haj: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, dalam pandangan Kerajaan Malaysia, satu Kerajaan tempatan Republik Khmer di Phnom Penh telahpun ujud dan telah pun menjadi ahli Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu. Memandangkan ini, Kerajaan Malaysia tidaklah dapat mengiktirafkan Kerajaan Perpaduan Negara Khmer Di Raja yang diketuai oleh Putera Norodom Sihanouk itu ataupun menyokong kemasukannya ke dalam Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu.

ROMBONGAN MALAYSIA KE CHINA

7. **Tuan Lee Lam Thye** minta Menteri Luar Negeri menyatakan:

- (a) samada Kerajaan bercadang menghantar satu rombongan terdiri daripada semua parti yang melawat Negeri China

bagi mempereratkan lagi perhubungan persahabatan di antara Malaysia dengan China memandangkan pada masa ini perhubungan diplomatik telah ditubuhkan antara kedua-dua negara ini, kalau tidak, kenapa; dan

- (b) samada dan bilakah Kerajaan Malaysia akan mengundang Perdana Menteri China untuk mengadakan lawatan balas ke Malaysia.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Al-Haj: Tuan Yang di-Pertua,

- (a) Sebagaimana Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat sedia maklum satu rombongan Kerajaan yang diketuai oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri telah baru sahaja membuat lawatan ke negara China untuk menjalinkan perhubungan di antara kedua buah-negara. Oleh yang demikian, saya berasa tidaklah perlu buat masa ini mengadakan satu rombongan terdiri daripada semua parti-parti untuk melawat ke negara China.

- (b) Semasa lawatan Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri baru-baru ini beliau telahpun menjemput Premier Chou melawat Malaysia. Premier Chou mengetahui bahawa Malaysia sedia menerimanya bila-bila masa sahaja ia ingin membuat lawatannya.

KONSEP GUGUSAN/ARCHIPELAGO—PENDIRIAN MALAYSIA

8. **Tuan Farn Seong Than** (*di bawah S.O. 24* (2)) minta Menteri Luar Negeri menyatakan pendirian Kerajaan Malaysia atas konsep kepulauan Indonesia (Indonesian Archipelago) sejauh ia menyentuh kedudukan dan keadulatan wilayah kita.

Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Al-Haj: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, pendirian Malaysia ialah kita menyokong konsep Gugusan atau Archipelago yang dicadangkan oleh Indonesia selagi konsep tersebut tidak mengurangkan hak-hak mutlak dan hak-hak yang sekarang dinikmati oleh Malaysia. Ini terutama apabila ia melibatkan hak-hak kita di segi kebebasan perhubungan di antara Semenanjung Malaysia dan Sabah serta Sarawak, supaya perpaduan kita tidaklah terjejas.

Ketika ini, kedua-dua buah Kerajaan sedang mencari jalan untuk mencapai satu kesimpulan yang memuaskan kedua-dua belah pihak serta diiktirafkan oleh Persidangan Undang-undang Laut.

SOALAN No. 9 DITARIK BALIK

Datuk Albert Mah: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya minta menarik balik soalan No. 9 ini, sebab sudah terdapat keterangan di dalam Dewan ini dua tiga hari yang lalu.

PERKATAAN "BUMIPUTRA" DAN "BUKAN BUMIPUTRA"-PENGGUNAAN

10. Tuan Farn Seong Than (*di bawah S.O. 24 (2)*) minta Menteri Undang-undang dan Peguam Negara menyatakan samada Kerajaan sedar bahawa suatu keadaan yang tidak memuaskan makin bertambah di kalangan orangramai mengenai penggunaan perkataan-perkataan "Bumiputra dan Bukan Bumiputra" oleh Kerajaan dalam susunan dan pelaksanaan polisi politik, pelajaran, sosial dan ekonomi Kerajaan, dan jika ya, apakah tindakan-tindakan Kerajaan akan ambil untuk membasmiikan punca keadaan tidak puas-hati ini.

Menteri Undang-undang dan Peguam Negara (Tan Sri Abdul Kadir bin Yusof): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tidaklah benar adanya sesuatu keadaan yang tidak memuaskan di kalangan orangramai mengenai penggunaan perkataan-perkataan "Bumiputra" dan "Bukan Bumiputra" oleh Kerajaan di dalam susunan dan pelaksanaan polisi Kerajaan. Yang demikian bagi kedua-dua soalan itu tidak timbul. Kalau ada pun yang iri hati ialah pihak-pihak Pembangkang yang bukan bumiputra agak saya.

PERCAKAPAN TALIPON SECARA RAHSIA (PHONE-TAPPING)

11. Tuan Lim Kit Siang minta Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri menyatakan garis-garis panduan yang digunakan oleh Kerajaan untuk membenarkan pihak Polis dan lain-lain pihak berkuasa Kerajaan mendengar percakapan talipon orang secara rahsia (phone-tapping); dan nyatakan samada pemimpin-pemimpin

pihak Pembangkang telah dikenakan "phone-tapping" dalam masa lampau, dan jika ya, nyatakan butir-butir lanjut.

Menteri Hal Ehwal Dalam Negeri (Tan Sri Haji Muhammad Ghazali bin Shafie): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, di bawah Seksyen 5 (1) (c) "Telecommunication Act 1950 (Revised—1970)" sekiranya berlaku sesuatu darurat awam ataupun di atas dasar kepentingan keselamatan awam, Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri atau siapa juga pegawai yang diberi kuasa olehnya boleh mengarahkan memasang telinga atau pendengaran percakapan talipon secara rahsia. Oleh yang demikian, garis panduannya terikat pada soal kepentingan keselamatan awam. Ini akan dilaksanakan tanpa diskriminasi kerana pertimbangan utama ialah keselamatan awam. Oleh kerana soal kepentingan keselamatan awam berbangkit dan untuk memelihara faedah orangramai saya minta izin, Tuan, soalan ini tidak dipanjangkan mengikut Peraturan Dewan Rakyat 23 (4).

Tuan Lim Kit Siang: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, oleh kerana Yang Berhormat Menteri telah memberi penjelasan, saya hendak bertanya samada phone-tapping dilakukan sekarang sebab kalau saya tidak silap di bawah Undang-undang Dharurat (State of Emergency) masih ada dan belum dibatalkan. Bolehkah Yang Berhormat Menteri memberi penjelasan?

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Tadi Yang Berhormat Menteri telah mengatakan tidak hendak dipanjangkan atas soalan ini.

GULA PERAK/GULA NS BERHAD

12. Tuan Oh Keng Seng minta Menteri Perdagangan dan Perindustrian menyatakan kemajuan tentang GULA PERAK dan GULA NS, dan samada Kerajaan pernah mengambil pakar untuk menyaksikan keadaan GULA PERAK.

Setiausaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Perdagangan dan Perindustrian (Tuan Mustapha bin Ali): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, GULA PERAK BERHAD telah memulakan pengeluaran gula pasir pada bulan April, 1971. Pada tahun 1973 pengeluaran gula pasir berjumlah 10,000 tan dan dalam tahun 1974 pengeluaran dijangka akan dibuat pada jumlah yang sama.

Kerajaan tidak ada mendapatkan perkhidmatan mana-mana pakar untuk menyiasat kedudukan Syarikat ini, tetapi Syarikat ini sendiri telah melantik satu firma perunding luar negeri untuk menjalankan kajian ke arah pembaikan Syarikat ini.

SYARIKAT GULA NS (SDN) BHD. ini akan memulakan pengeluaran gula pasir pada akhir bulan November, 1974 ini.

Tuan Oh Keng Seng: Soalan tambahan. Adakah Kerajaan sedar tentang Syarikat Gula NS yang projek-projek itu Kerajaan telah berjanji akan mengeluarkan hasil pada bulan Jun, kemudian ditangguhkan pada bulan September. Apakah sebabnya Kerajaan mengatakan akan mengeluarkan hasil pada bulan November? Bolehkah diberikan sebab-sebab penangguhan pengeluaran syarikat gula itu?

Tuan Mustapha bin Ali: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, ini adalah disebabkan oleh kekurangan infra-structure dalam kawasan itu sendiri, misalnya bangunan-bangunan untuk menjalankan kerja-kerja itu yang telah dilambatkan oleh kekurangan simen dan bahan-bahan lain. Inilah yang menyebabkan kelambatan pengeluaran itu dijalankan sehingga bulan November tahun ini.

Tuan Oh Keng Seng: Soalan tambahan. Tentang soal Syarikat Gula Perak, adakah Kerajaan sedar bahawa agensi-agensi Kerajaan seperti MARA dan lain-lainnya sudah menjualkan saham Syarikat Gula Perak, oleh sebab mereka tidak ada confidence dalam projek itu. Adakah Kerajaan sedar?

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Tidak bersangkut dengan soalan asal.

BANJIR—RANCANGAN PENGAIRAN BESUT

13. Tuan Zakaria bin Haji Abdul Rahman minta Menteri Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luarbandar menyatakan samada Kerajaan sedar bahawa tambak-tambak taliair yang sedang dibina di tempat dalam Rancangan Pengairan Besut sekarang ini mungkin mengakibatkan banjir besar yang mengejut dan merbahaya bagi setengah-setengah kawasan; dan jika ya, samada beliau telah memberitahu senarai kawasan-kawasan yang mungkin terlibat itu kepada Jawatankuasa Banjir di semua peringkat untuk persediaan sewajarnya.

Timbalan Menteri Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar (Tuan Mokhtar bin Haji Hashim): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, seluruh tempat dalam kawasan Rancangan Pengairan Besut telah mengalami banjir pada masa yang lalu dan ban-ban yang dibina di bawah rancangan tersebut sendirinya tidak akan memburukkan lagi keadaan jikalau berlaku banjir. Jawatankuasa Banjir Daerah Besut sudah mengetahui tempat-tempat yang kerap dilanda banjir dan persiapan menghadapinya telah diatur oleh Jawatankuasa tersebut itu.

PEKERJA-PEKERJA KILANG ELETRONIK

14. Tuan Mohd. Salleh bin Datuk Panglima Abdullah minta Menteri Buruh dan Tenaga Rakyat menyatakan:

- (a) samada benar bahawa banyak pekerja-pekerja kilang letronik telah diberhentikan pekerjaannya oleh kerana perniagaannya kurang laris sekarang; jika ya, nyatakan bilangan pekerja yang terlibat; dan
- (b) tindakan Kerajaan di atas pemberhentian pekerja beramai-ramai ini dan samada pekerja-pekerja dari lain-lain perusahaan juga terlibat; jika ya, nyatakan jenis perusahaan dan bilangan pekerja yang terlibat.

Menteri Buruh dan Tenaga Rakyat (Datuk Lee San Choon): Tuan Yang di-Pertua,

- (a) Berpunca kepada kemerosotan ekonomi dan inflasi di seluruh dunia, permintaan bagi barang-barang eletronik telah berkurangan dan ini telah mengakibatkan pembuangan sebilangan pekerja-pekerja. Pada 30-10-1974 ada terdapat 43 kilang-kilang eletronik di Semenanjung Malaysia dan mereka menggajikan sejumlah 27,544 pekerja-pekerja. Semenjak bulan Ogos tahun ini, 341 pekerja-pekerja telah diberhentikan dari bekerja di tiga buah tempat pekerjaan.
- (b) Setakat ini tiada laporan pembangunan pekerja-pekerja secara besar-besaran di lain-lain perusahaan. Perusahaan-perusahaan kain, papan dan "plywood" telah terlibat sedikit disebabkan berkurangan permintaan dari seberang laut. Kerajaan adalah sedang mengawasi keadaan dan telah menubuhkan sebuah

jawatankuasa untuk mengkaji perkembangan dengan teliti dan melaporkannya kepada Kerajaan supaya tindakan-tindakan dasar yang sewajarnya dapat dirangka. Mengenai perusahaan kain, Kerajaan telahpun mengambil tindakan menghadkan impot jenis-jenis kain yang tertentu supaya pasaran-pasaran tempatan dibuka luas bagi pengusaha-pengusaha tempatan.

Tuan Lim Kit Siang: Soalan tambahan. Mengenai tindakan Kerajaan terhadap perkembangan-perkembangan ini, adakah Kementerian atau Kerajaan berniat untuk memperkenalkan undang-undang atau peraturan-peraturan mewajibkan majikan atau kilang-kilang letronic dan lain-lain membayar retrenchment allowance kepada setiap pekerja yang terlibat atau yang dibuang?

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Soalan itu tak ada bersangkutan dengan soalan yang asal. Menteri pun tidak menjawabnya.

Tuan Lim Kit Siang: Tetapi di bawah perenggan kedua, ianya ada berkaitan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Jawapan atas soalan itu pun tak timbul, jadi bagaimana Yang Berhormat hendak bertanya?

KELAS-KELAS TADIKA

15. Tuan Chia Heng Kai minta Menteri Pelajaran menyatakan samada Kerajaan berniat membuka tadika-tadika kebangsaan dan jenis kebangsaan untuk kanak-kanak dari keluarga miskin supaya dapat setanding dengan kanak-kanak dari keluarga kaya yang sudahpun belajar di tadika-tadika persendirian sebelum mereka masuk sekolah.

Timbalan Menteri Pelajaran (Tuan Chan Siang Sun): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kelas-kelas Tadika tidak termasuk di dalam sistem pelajaran sekarang ini. Kelas-kelas ini diselenggarakan oleh pihak swasta.

Setakat ini Kementerian Pelajaran belum ada rancangan mengadakan kelas-kelas tadika. Kementerian saya memang sudah lama sedar bahawa kanak-kanak dari keluarga miskin tidak dapat setanding dengan kanak-kanak dari keluarga kaya. Kesedaran ini dikalangan wakil-wakil Pembangkang akan memudahkan usaha Kerajaan memperseimbangkan peluang-peluang pelajaran antara miskin dan kaya.

Walau bagaimanapun, untuk maklumat Ahli Yang Berhormat tersebut, Kementerian Pertanian dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar ada menjalankan kelas-kelas tadika di beberapa kawasan di luar bandar.

GURU-GURU SEMENTARA—LATIHAN PERGURUAN

16. Tuan Chia Heng Kai minta Menteri Pelajaran menyatakan samada Kementerian beliau mempunyai satu rancangan yang sempurna untuk menyelesaikan masalah guru-guru sementara dan samada Kerajaan boleh menjamin bahawa mereka akan terus menjadi guru-guru tetap apabila mereka dilatih oleh Kerajaan untuk menjadi guru-guru terlatih.

Tuan Chan Siang Sun: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Kementerian Pelajaran sedang menyusun rancangan untuk memberi latihan perguruan kepada semua guru sementara yang memenuhi syarat-syarat yang ditetapkan. Perlantikan mereka sebagai guru tetap adalah tertakluk kepada peraturan-peraturan pengambilan yang diamalkan sekarang.

Kerajaan tidak dapat menjamin bahawa mereka yang terlatih akan terus menjadi guru-guru tetap oleh kerana ada guru-guru yang ingin menamatkan perkhidmatan mereka apabila dapat peluang lain yang lebih baik.

USUL

ATURAN URUSAN MESYUARAT

Timbalan Menteri Kewangan (Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mohon mencadangkan:

Bahawa menurut peruntukan Peraturan Mesyuarat 14 (2) Majlis sekarang akan terus menimbangkan usul bagi menyambung semula perbahasan untuk bacaan kali yang kedua Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 dan Usul merujuk ketetapan perbelanjaan Pembangunan kepada Jawatankuasa sebuah-buah Majlis sebagaimana yang tertera sebagai perkara 5 dalam Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat dan Pemberitahu Usul untuk hari ini.

Timbalan Menteri Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Datuk Abdullah Ahmad): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mohan menyokong.

Usul dikemuka bagi diputuskan, dan disetujui.

Diputuskan,

Bahawa menurut peruntukan Peraturan Mesyuarat 14 (2) Majlis sekarang akan terus menimbang Usul bagi menyambung semula perbincangan untuk bacaan kali yang kedua Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 dan Usul merujuk ketetapan perbelanjaan Pembangunan kepada Jawatankuasa sebuah-buah Majlis sebagaimana yang tertera sebagai perkara 5 dalam Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat dan Pemberitahu Usul untuk hari ini.

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG

RANG UNDANG-UNDANG PERBEKALAN, 1975

Bacaan Kali Yang Kedua

Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat dibacakan bagi menyambung semula perbincangan yang ditangguhkan atas masalah, "Bahawa Rang Undang-undang ini dibacakan kali yang kedua sekarang" (12hb November, 1974).

DAN

USUL

ANGGARAN PEMBANGUNAN, 1975

Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat dibacakan bagi menyambung semula perbincangan yang ditangguhkan atas masalah, "Bahawa Usul yang berikut ini dirujuk kepada Jawatankuasa sebuah-buah Majlis:

Bahawa Dewan ini membuat ketetapan iaitu satu jumlah wang sebanyak tidak lebih daripada \$2,406,598,777 dibelanjakan daripada Kumpulanwang Pembangunan bagi tahun 1975, dan bagi maksud kepala dan pecahan-pecahan kepala perbelanjaan pembangunan yang dinyatakan di bawah Kepala Pembangunan atau ("P") dalam senarai Belanjawan Persekutuan, 1975 yang dibentangkan sebagai Kertas Perintah 22 tahun 1974, adalah diuntukkan di bawah kepala-kepala yang berkenaan jumlah-jumlah yang setentang dengan pecahan-pecahan kepala itu di ruangan enam dan tujuh senarai tersebut." (12hb November, 1974).

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Rang Undang-undang yang bernama "Suatu Akta bagi menggunakan sejumlah wang daripada Kumpulanwang Disatukan untuk perkhidmatan bagi tahun

1975 dan bagi memperuntukkan wang itu dan lain-lain wang sebagaimana yang telah dibenarkan dikeluarkan untuk perkhidmatan bagi tahun itu" yang telah dikemukakan untuk bacaan kali yang kedua, dan Usul atas nama Yang Berhormat Menteri Kewangan dalam Aturan Urusan Mesyuarat hari ini, adalah sekarang terbuka untuk perbincangan.

Perbincangan disambung semula.

3.01 ptg.

Tuan Edmund Langgu anak Saga (Saratok): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk berucap sedikit atas usul yang dikemukakan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri merangkap Menteri Kewangan yang telah dibuka untuk diperbahaskan pada hari ini. Bila membaca ucapan itu, saya merasa puashati oleh kerana Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 itu telah disemak dengan teliti. Walau bagaimanapun, Ucapan Belanjawan ini tidak boleh diterima dengan seterusnya dengan tidak ada teguran. Di samping itu, izinkan saya berucap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Diizinkan.

Tuan Edmund Langgu anak Saga: (*Dengan izin*) Mr Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I would like to express my appreciation for the 1975 Supply Bill which was delivered by Yang Amat Berhormat the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. Personally I think, and I am sure my colleagues on this side of the House agree with me, that the Bill has been well thought of and carefully elaborated, especially on our national economic problems, due to international stagflation. The Government had made and outlined some specific measures to encounter recession and inflation in Malaysia. Personally I would like to mention and suggest some approaches to the Government in this respect.

The Government should encourage and accelerate manufacturing activities in order to eliminate some imports, especially in the manufacturing of building materials, where public and private sectors spend quite a tremendous amount of money. While still talking on this subject, I would like to suggest that—

- (1) The Government should provide credit facilities to the private sectors on easier

and more flexible terms for production activities.

- (2) Loans for speculations, hoarding and unnecessary consumption should not only be discouraged but totally restricted.
- (3) The Government should not only inculcate the saving habit in our people but see to that the savings habit is encouraged. This should be done by increasing the interest rate for savings and also increase the interest rates for borrowing with the intention to discourage unnecessary borrowing and would reduce the supply of money in the market.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch on the subject of abatement of income tax in Sabah and Sarawak which the Minister of Finance mentioned in his speech of introduction of the 1975 Supply Bill. The Honourable Minister of Finance stated that the abatement of income tax in Sabah and Sarawak will be removed next year. I suggest that the Government should reconsider the timing of this decision for one simple reason, because the people in the two States do not enjoy the same purchasing power for every dollar they earn as those in Peninsular Malaysia. For example, a comparison can be made between the price of sugar in a remote area of Sarawak and a remote area of Peninsular Malaysia. A kati of sugar in Peninsular Malaysia is not sold for more than 55 cents whereas in the rural areas of Sarawak and Sabah a kati of sugar is even purchased at the price of 80 or 90 cents per kati.

To compare the income of the rural people in Sabah and Sarawak with the people in Peninsular Malaysia here, a good example can be made out of the same amount and quality of rubber sold by an individual either in Sabah or Sarawak with his counterpart in Peninsular Malaysia. An individual in Sabah or Sarawak will receive \$40 from a pikul of rubber sold whereas his counterpart in Peninsular Malaysia will receive around \$50 from the same quantity of rubber sold. But the individual in Sabah or Sarawak will buy a less quantity of goods with the amount of money he gets from selling that one pikul of rubber compared to his counterpart in Peninsular Malaysia who would even spend only \$40 out of his \$50 which he gets from

one pikul of rubber. Therefore, I do not see any justification for removing the abatement of income tax in Sabah and Sarawak at this time. In addition to this, Sir, the people in Sabah and Sarawak still have to pay more than their counterparts in Peninsular Malaysia for most, if not all, of the manufactured goods and essential commodities.

So, I feel that by removing the abatement of income tax completely, it is just like extracting a tooth without giving prior anaesthetic. Therefore the pain out of extracting the tooth will not be relieved but will become more painful. In this respect, Sir, I urge the Government to seriously think about withdrawing this proposal.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would further like to express my appreciation on the intention of the Minister of Finance to increase the import duty especially on unmanufactured tobacco. Of course the economic effects following the increase of the import duty on tobacco will reduce the imports of unmanufactured tobacco and there will be a possibility for the local tobacco industry to be expanded and improved. This, of course, will create employment and increase our G.N.P. and also discourage or reduce imports of tobacco. However, I would like to sound my concern over the effect of the increase of import duty of tobacco in Sarawak. Should the import duty of this commodity be increased in Sarawak at the same rate as in Peninsular Malaysia, then due to the extra cost on shipping and extra profit made by the exporters from Peninsular Malaysia when they re-export to Sarawak, then the consumers of this commodity in Sarawak will have to pay more for the same amount of tobacco consumed by their counterparts in Peninsular Malaysia. Therefore, owing to the above reasons, I suggest that there should be a barrier in the rate of increase for the import duty of unmanufactured tobacco for the importers in Sarawak. The importers from this State will pay lesser increase for each pound of the said commodity they import. This will enable equal price for the same commodity both in the Peninsular and Sarawak when the commodity finally reaches the consumers.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude my general comments on the Supply Bill for 1975 which was delivered by Yang Amat Berhormat Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Finance, with the hope that whatever suggestions the Minister of Finance was recommending to curb inflation and to increase food production in order to be self-sufficient, will benefit us all. Nevertheless, I would like to remind the Honourable Minister of Finance that whatever his suggestions maybe to achieve self-sufficiency in food and curb inflation be expeditiously and effectively implemented rather than merely remaining lines of beautiful thoughts that had been put into writing. I am not saying that all that has been said by the Minister of Finance cannot be implemented, but I wish to see that they are carried out.

In his speech, the Honourable Minister of Finance stated that we in Malaysia would not be as adversely affected as most other countries by the recession and inflation in spite of anticipated recession, continuing inflation and the increasing unemployment problem in this country. He further stressed that there would be no starvation and mass unemployment in this country. In this respect I feel that the Government must not be too complacent because Malaysia may face the same problems that prevail in the countries that had been quoted as examples by the Honourable Minister of Finance. The reasons for saying this is that Malaysia with its population of just over 10 million people now has already facing the same problems with recession, inflation, starvation and mass unemployment. So before we enunciate our economic and financial policies, the Government must formulate these policies in a real term of uniformity so that every section of Malaysian population will be benefited by these policies.

In the past our economic policies, although they always appeared to be sound and comprehensive, but were not efficient enough to solve our economic problems. Thus inflation, recession, unemployment problems and even starvation still exist in certain areas, especially in the rural areas of Malaysia. In this case, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to the Government's intention to open up another 500,000 acres of land for food production. This sounds ambitious but if it is to be implemented in the manner in which the previous policies of food production had been implemented in the past, then I think these policies will not be beneficial to all sections of our population, for in the past food production projects

always had been planned in an "inexploitable" manner and thus benefited the "haves" in the country. I would not be too specific in this point, Sir, but just suggest that the plans and policies for food production must be formulated to benefit the "have-nots". If policies on this subject, Sir, are to be carried in the way both in the sense of *implementation and economic implication*, then we can bridge the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in this country together with the aim of increasing food production and curbing inflation.

Sago which is one of the food producing plants that have been planted in smallholdings in conspicuous places in Malaysia, particularly in Sarawak, which can be a substitute to rice—our staple food—still cannot find its proper place both in local and foreign markets. Therefore, in food production, Sir, we must find ways and means to promote the sago industry in this country. So, I would like to urge the Government to give the sago industry its serious consideration with the intention to promote the sago industry as a source to provide cheaper food to the poor who really cannot afford to buy rice during certain periods of the year. Then the occurrence of starvation in Malaysia can be prevented.

Unless the Government prepares to compromise with the Opposition in this House over what has been said or have to be said, then I see there will be a very narrow chance for Malaysians of all walks of life to face the hard time before us and to calm the storm that is ahead of us.

The Government's policies to be self-sufficient in agricultural products should then be geared towards proper machineries with the aim to provide the agricultural sectors with:

- (1) Training;
- (2) Adequate subsidies;
- (3) Efficient mechanical equipments; and
- (4) Marketing facilities for the agricultural products.

1. Training

On training, the Government should allocate certain funds or to increase the one that might had been established (if there is any) for the purpose of financing our young citizens in the agricultural training institutions

both locally and abroad. A Committee should be established in an appropriate Ministry or Department, both at Federal and State levels, with the functions to look into the fields of training that suit our priorities. These young citizens of ours are not necessarily be those who serve the Government or will be requested by the Government but also those who will be returning to their own agricultural estates and be self-employed.

2. Adequate subsidies

Due to inflation, most farmers are unable to maintain their farms due to the high cost of fertilizers, insecticides and so on. Therefore, the Government should either allocate extra sum of fund for subsidizing the extra cost of the fertilizers, insecticides and so on, or if it cannot be done or practised by the Government, to abolish the import duty on fertilizers, insecticides and so on.

3. Efficient Mechanical Equipment

The Government's intention to promote larger scale of agricultural activities is not likely to succeed unless mechanised methods are employed and extended to all agricultural sectors rather than merely to one or two sectors. Unless mechanised methods are employed, the Government's intention to be self-sufficient in food production will not be achieved, merely because most of the farmers are still intending to practise primitive methods of agriculture. However, I am optimistic that self-sufficiency in food production can be achieved if the Government is seriously thinking about employing mechanised methods of agriculture. For example, even though in the State of Sarawak the people are farmers, the production is much too little, even not enough for their own consumption. Thus, by employing mechanised method and increasing the farming area, the production would be more than enough to meet the demand of the local production.

4. Marketing Agencies

Marketing agencies may be established with the functions of safe-guarding fair prices for the products of the farmers, besides eliminating the middlemen who exploit the market situations. The farmers then would be ensured of fair prices.

3.18 ptg.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon (Kepong): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun bercakap tentang usul yang dikemukakan oleh Menteri Kewangan minggu yang lalu, dan di samping saya bercakap dalam Bahasa Malaysia, saya mohon izin bercakap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya telah mendengar 10 Ucapan Belanjawan, kesemuanya oleh Tun Tan Siew Sin, dan ini adalah kali yang pertama saya telah mendengar Ucapan Belanjawan oleh Menteri Kewangan yang baru dan saya hendak mengucapkan tahniah kepada presentationnya walaupun sebentar lagi saya akan membuat beberapa teguran.

(*Dengan izin*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I can, at least, praise the timbre of his voice which is easier on the ears than that of the former Finance Minister's high-pitched notes. I can also praise his wisdom in shortening his speech—although it look two hours to deliver—and providing us with a substantial printed supplement in the form of the Economic Report.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having said this, let me proceed to express my disappointment that he has continued in the Alliance tradition of Budgets designed by rich men to please and help other rich men. In the second paragraph of his speech he has indicated that he would follow his predecessor's tradition. Alas, he has! The successful corporate lawyer turned Finance Minister has continued the tradition of the multi-millionaire Finance Minister. Should anyone be more surprised that the "Millionaires' National Front" is no different from the former "Alliance of Millionaires"!

The Minister declares in the third paragraph of his speech that the Budget is "An active and dynamic instrument to achieve our country's socio-economic aspirations". Are we to take such declarations seriously?

Is he not aware that poverty in this country is still rampant and that economic disparity is getting wider instead of the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in this country being narrowed or closed? Is he also not aware that, according to the 1970 Post Enumeration Survey, about 60 per cent of the households in this country have an income of less than \$200 per month? He does not even appear to be aware of

their existence. I shall dwell more on this in detail, on Income Distribution, a little while later.

The other striking omission is Foreign Capital Control in this country. There is not one syllable in the whole speech regarding this very important subject.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the presentation of a Budget is at best a difficult task, even in normal times. But since we do not live in normal times with inflation, recession and now stagflation affecting not only just this nation but the entire international community, the Budget and the economic policies upon which it is based assume a critical function. It is in this context that we need to evaluate the policies which have been outlined by the Minister.

Here I will admit that the Minister is in the horns of a dilemma. First, we had inflation towards the end of last year and the need then was to curb spending, both public and private, and enact monetary and fiscal measures to soak up the excess liquidity.

Now we have recession and the need here is to pump money, especially Government spending, to stimulate the economy and to provide jobs for the growing number of unemployed youth. These are two diametrically opposite points of view and how to resolve them will test the judgment of King Solomon of old. And I do not see any King Solomon in the Ministerial Benches sitting opposite me.

Although the Minister has warned the nation of the gravity of the twin threats of recession and inflation, yet he has tried to reassure the people of this country that these hard times are temporary and that by early 1976 all will be well with our economy and with that of the industrialised world.

Time and again, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his speech has stated that our economy will take an upturn after the early part of 1976. This is indeed a "\$64,000 Question" which is engaging the minds of the best economic brains all over the world. I see that the Minister and his economic advisers have boldly come out with such a forthright prognostication. For his sake and for the sake of the people of this country, I hope he is right.

I see too that the Minister too has tried to paint a rosy picture and made assumptions that have yet to be tested and proved right, and he has swept problems under the carpet. I shall come to them later.

Inflation

The period since late 1972 has seen unprecedented rates of price increases in Malaysia. I had warned the Government of the dangers as early as 1973. Along with other Members on this side of the House, various constructive proposals have been made during the debate on the 1974 Budget.

One amongst many proposals of mine was a proposal that given the high export prices prevailing during late 1973, the Government should have introduced immediate measures to syphon off export earnings to reduce its impact on money supply. These calls went unheeded and we had the situation with the Government sitting with folded arms and doing nothing whilst the big capitalists amassed more and more money and inflation became more rampant. In the meantime the impact of these export earnings on money supply was felt unabated.

After four or five months of dithering, measures were introduced in April, 1974 by which time of course export commodity prices were beginning to fall. I said then that it was too little and too late but the Barisan Nasional was more interested in electoral advantages than in tackling the problems of the nation, especially inflation.

During the 1974 Budget debate, I recall having urged the Government to introduce a measure of tax reform by increasing income tax rates at the upper end of the scale for individuals, and in respect of companies, to mop up the excessive earnings on the basis of both equity grounds and as a measure of anti-inflationary needs of the country. These proposals were ignored for the Government neither heeded nor recognised the sound advice that was proffered. The nation's poor have thus paid dearly for this stubborn refusal on the part of the then Alliance Government to listen to reason. The tragedy of this Government is, of course, the belief held by them that they can do no wrong and that any advice or views sincerely held by us on this side of the House is always wrong. Had the Government paid attention to my proposals the poor in this country

would not have had to suffer perhaps the same degree of inflation that 1974 had experienced.

Let me briefly touch on the Consumer Price Index. At the end of September, 1974 the C.P.I. stood at 139.9 and the average for the first nine months of this year was already 136.3 and yet the experts of the E.P.U. and the Treasury in their arrogance have the audacity so say that the C.P.I. will average for the year as a whole only at 138.5.

They would have us believe that during October to December, 1974 the Index will increase but marginally only. Have they not heard that the last quarter of every year is the one when prices move up because of the festivals and the downpours caused by monsoon? And in any case we have already seen price increases in sugar, milk, wheat flour and all these price increases will produce side effects that will further jack up the prices of a number of necessities of life. And I venture to predict that there will be more "Christmas presents"—in the form of price increases—in the pipe-line.

I am not a betting man but I am willing to bet that the C.P.I. will average more than what has been estimated by the Minister and his experts. Therefore, the rate of inflation for this year will not be 18%, as suggested by the Government, but will be in the region of 20% which is double the 10% inflation announced by Tun Tan Siew Sin last year—unless, of course, the Department of Statistics is ordered to "cook" the figures.

The Minister says, very bravely, that the Government will fight inflation with firm measures so long as it does not interfere with growth. Surely the E.P.U. and the Treasury officials do not need us to tell him that this is just so much of waffle. Under the economic system that he serves, our economy must always stop and start in time with the Western economies and if he tackles inflation his way then growth will slow down or stop.

The Budget has contributed to inflation by its measures of indirect taxation, as I shall presently show.

Whilst most of our inflation is admittedly imported, a great part of it is due to the policy of protection of favoured industries owned by wealthy Barisan supporters and

their foreign partners. The prices of imported as well as locally manufactured goods, be it drugs, electrical equipment, cars, etc. is higher in this country than in the country of origin. The former Minister of Finance once bravely attacked foreign agency houses for making 100% profits. In fact, it is we who should be complaining that Government has allowed such profiteering. Yet the past Minister of Finance complained then but did nothing about it. The new Minister of Finance wants to fight inflation but he did not say a word about this matter raised by his predecessor. Are our Ministers so afraid of agency houses and foreign companies that they dare not do anything about such profiteering?

The Minister has announced a number of measures to counter inflation but they are not enough. They should ban the import of luxury cars, luxury goods and greatly restrict the import of textiles.

Food items have a weightage of about 47% in the calculations of the C.P.I. and it registered an increase of 30% in the first nine months of the year. And I venture to predict that before the year is out this figure will reach at least 35%. This places an intolerable burden on the working class who even before the advent of inflation have found it difficult to make both ends meet. And yet what are his solutions for the food shortage and high prices? He has announced the Government's intention to open up half a million acres of land for food cultivation, about half of it in Peninsular Malaysia. About 260,000 acres of this new land will be provided for padi cultivation on an estate basis. Then there is the project for cattle raising, cultivation of maize, sorghum and tapioca for animal feeds on a commercial scale. All these measures are admirable but the gestation period is at least two or three years and at best they will bear fruit in about four years. What the country needs is not middle or long term measures but immediate ones that can solve our food shortage next year and bring down inflation in the process. To sum up, the assumption that inflation will continue in 1975 but at a slower rate is misleading. A sharp slow down of the kind that is being forecast by the Minister is just not on the cards. Instead of such glib talk, the Minister should have taken more energetic measures to combat inflation.

The Minister's speech on the economic performance for the year 1974 was, to say the least, couched in terms which are less than satisfactory. The speech as such referred only to aspects which were of a favourable nature with serious issues and features of economic developments glossed over or swept under the carpet in typical old Alliance style. And when it suited the Minister constant price series of G.N.P. and its components were used, but when this was inconvenient the speech used current price series which in a period of high rates of inflation are anything but meaningless since money values mean nothing and are illusionary. An example of this can be seen in para. 12 of the speech where a glib reference is made to an increase of 26% in private consumption during 1974. The real rate, of course, is much less if the 18% increase in consumer prices is taken into account. The Economic Report gives no table showing G.N.P. and its components in constant terms—a departure from last year's report. I would want to know why.

The Treasury Economists have, of course, had to work partial data in many cases with figures of only the first half of the year. In view of the terms and the fact that the economic downturn took place largely after the middle of 1974, the figures which are quoted for economic performance during the year are partly actual and partly value judged guesses on the part of the Treasury Pundits. Looking at the details, I am convinced that a number of these estimates are pie in the sky hopes and bear little resemblance to the realities of the economic situation that faces the country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me highlight some of these. The Treasury reckons that the imports during 1974 will grow by 59% in 1974. However, for the first two quarters of the year, the import was some 80% higher than the corresponding period last year. What this implies is that the Treasury unrealistically estimated a decline in imports in the second half of the year. I have seen reports which showed that imports had been galloping away and Peninsular Malaysia had unprecedented deficits on the trade balance of \$9 millions in May this year, \$64 millions in June and \$94 millions in July. There is every likelihood of further sizeable deficits during the remaining months of 1974 especially with the bunching of imports owing

to the festivals that occur towards the end of the year. Therefore, for the year as a whole, there will undoubtedly be a sizeable deficit on merchandise trade. Even if Sarawak has a surplus because of the oil boom (production, I see, has declined), the country as a whole will not have a trade surplus of the size forecast. To say that there will be a surplus of \$710 millions on the trade balance is unrealistic and misleading. This is a serious situation and the country has never experienced in living memory any development of this kind.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister has also predicted a balance of trade surplus of \$100 millions. I say that this is laughable and I say that when the full and final figures are published, they will show that this \$100 millions surplus on our balance of trade is illusionary. I say to the Government that it must wake up and face realities and not be deluded into complacency. The truth must be recognised and action initiated. We are living in a difficult world, as the Minister has said, but we must equally be alive to the need for action.

Looking at real investment in constant terms and using the figures in the table on Page 98 of the Economic Report, we see that public and private capital formation was only \$81 millions higher than in 1973. Thus there is a percentage increase of less than 4%. It is also some \$60 millions less than the increase between 1972 and 1973. For a year which was half a boom year, this is a dismal performance and does not speak too highly of the Government's economic policies of promoting growth through investment. I have repeatedly stated that the restrictive policies that have been followed, with all the red tape, and the inability of officials to recognise the bigger issues, with a diehard attitude of narrow-minded approaches will lead this country to a sorry state of affairs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Treasury has predicted that real growth in G.N.P. in 1975 will be of the order of 5% as against 6.3% in 1974. I find it hard to reconcile the Ministerial statements of a recession hitting Malaysia with the forecasts of growth. If the industrialised countries have zero or minimal growth, surely it must affect demand for Malaysian exports to a much greater extent. Yet the Treasury would have us believe that

in constant terms exports of goods and services will grow by 3% in 1975 while it is expected to grow by only 2.0% in 1974. The figures for 1975 appear to be out of line with statements in the Budget Speech and are, if anything, over optimistic.

(Tuan (Timbalan) Yang di-Pertua *mempengerusikan Mesyuarat*)

The private investment is the first thing that falls during a recession but our Treasury experts are saying that there will be an increase of almost 4%. This is unbelievable, to say the least. If the figures are to be believed, then all statements referring to 1975 as a year of stagflation are a lot of bull. On the other hand, if Ministerial statements are accepted as accurate and there is reason to do so since internationally there is wide acceptance of the difficult economic situation developing in 1975, then the Treasury experts must re-examine their so-called refined calculation and come out with more realistic figures. I urge the officials not to mislead their political masters and the country at large as the price to be paid for this kind of foolishness is very great.

To substantiate my contention that these forecasts are unrealistic, let us take up the assumption about rubber prices. I admit that the Minister in his speech has stated that it is anybody's guess, and the figure he has given is a figure of 132 cents per kilo for 1975. The price had already come down to 106 cents per kilo on the 14th of November and the price is likely to fall further. I gather from some experts that it will fall much below a dollar per kilo. But the Minister and his advisers are sure that it is going to rise to an average of 132 cents per kilo for 1975. Again, let us hope for the sake of this country that this will come true, though I have my doubts.

The current expenditure increases are inevitable given inflation. But have all the necessary economies that are possible been introduced? There are any number of grandiose schemes upon which money will continue to be wasted. PERNAS, for example, is putting up a \$100 million building 60-storey high in Kuala Lumpur with a special lift meant only for the Chairman. Likewise other statutory bodies, e.g. UDA, FIDA, etc. are all building multi-storey buildings in Kuala Lumpur running into tens of millions of dollars, if not more. The

Selangor State Government, for example, is putting up a State Assembly building worth \$100 million. It is this kind of public expenditure which will not generate much economic activity but will certainly lead to greater inflation. The Pekemas calls on the Prime Minister to have a second look at such projects.

I urge the Government to put together a package of projects which would be labour-intensive. Areas in which this would be useful are housing, which merits a much larger increase than that provided in the Budget, the re-development of new villages, urban road improvement, etc. These expenditures will be socially beneficial as well as being economically justifiable. The greatest problem in 1975 will be the rising unemployment rates as the workers are being retrenched by the factories and businesses in the country and as the school-leavers leave school at the end of this year. Added to this will be the return of Malaysians who will get thrown out of Singapore. I would urge the Government to establish a fund from which grants could be made to firms which promise not to retrench workers in industries which will be badly affected by the economic slow-down.

Tax proposals

Excess Profits Tax on companies and other persons. I welcome the Excess Profits Tax, but with major reservations. For years in this House and outside it as well, I had campaigned for an increase of company and individual income tax. But every time I had been rebuffed by the former millionaire Finance Minister who had neither the desire nor the will to legislate away his own wealth and that of his fellow tycoons.

This Excess Profits Tax is a partial answer to the increase in direct taxation that I have advocated. But better late than never and in any case half a loaf is better than no bread. But why must it be necessary to introduce it in this form? It would have been much simpler to raise company tax by 5% and the revenue from it would be have been much bigger and easier to collect.

The form of this tax gives official blessing by the Government that businesses should aim to recover their investment within four years. This implies that only profits above 25% of the shareholders' fund are subject to this excess profit tax. But why should the upper

limit be \$200,000 or 25% of the shareholders' fund whichever is the greater? Why should it not be lowered to \$100,000 or 25% of the shareholders' fund whichever is the less? On the individual income tax, why should it be fixed at \$75,000 whereby a person earning more than \$7,000 per month will not be liable to pay profits tax? Why should the rich in this country be treated with such tender loving care while the poor down-trodden masses and workers have one indirect tax after another being heaped on them?

In these difficult times, when the poor in this country cannot make both ends meet, it is time for the Minister to re-design the income tax structure for individuals. At the lower levels, given inflationary conditions, exemptions should have been increased and the tax rates at the top brackets should have been increased by more than 5%. This will go a long way towards really restructuring Malaysian society.

Another example of the tender loving care that the Minister has lavished on the rich in this country is seen in the new rates of road tax. If he is really interested in helping the poor, small man in this time of inflation, he could have reduced the road tax on cars below 1500 c.c. to, say, 10 cents per c.c. But for cars above 1500 c.c., the tax should be progressively higher, and when it is a 3000 c.c. car, it should rise more steeply. This would have served the need for equity as well as of energy conservation. After all, if a man owns a Mercedes Benz 300 and pays about \$50,000 for it, he can well afford to pay two or three thousand dollars in road tax every year. If the Minister adopts this proposal of mine, he will get much more than the \$9.5 million that he expects from the new rates.

While we are on the question of road tax, Mr Speaker, Sir, why has not the Minister imposed much heavier tax on more expensive cars? Why should not the rich and the new rich, who go about in new flashy cars, be made to pay much more for them as in the case of Singapore, for example?

The 25% increase in road tax for motor-cycles is the unkindest cut of all to the working-class person who uses a motor-cycle to get to work. The increase reflects the mentality of those to whom \$10 is nothing. An increased amount of \$5.5 million

will be taken from the poor motor-cyclists, most of whom have to eke out an existence, whereas the excess profit tax on individuals will bring in a revenue of only \$3.5 million from the tycoons in this country. Do I have to say more than that? The Alliance party or the National Front, the name may change but the interests of the rich will always be looked after.

The decision to restrict tax deduction for cars up to a maximum value of 15,000 is a reasonable one. The argument that expensive cars are not really necessary for business purpose and that cars are also used for social purpose, is also a cogent one.

These arguments supply with equal cogency to Ministers, so that I hope that Ministers will be allowed free cars up to a maximum of \$15,000 only and, if they feel that their ego needs the support of larger cars, they should pay for the larger cars themselves. As I have pointed out before in this House last week, no sooner is a Minister or a Deputy Minister appointed than he rushes to equip with a Mercedes Benz 280 which costs the taxpayer \$38,000. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. I am offering this small test of the Government's sincerity. We cannot allow double standards in this and let us not have hypocritical justifications of large cars for Ministers and chairmen of statutory bodies but small cars for company directors.

I am not sure whether it is the feminine charm or the Women's Lib power of the Kaum Wanita which has made the Minister to introduce separate income tax assessment for working wives. I congratulate the Minister. It is better to be late than never, and I welcome this long overdue reform. I also welcome the provision to exclude employment in husband's enterprises, thereby closing a certain loophole for tax evasion.

I also welcome the concession to buses operating in the rural areas, and I call on the Minister to improve the conditions of rural roads, so that what they save on taxes will not be spent on repairs because of bad roads. The free enterprise system in public transport has meant overcrowded buses in busy routes and poor service in lesser lucrative routes. This is a serious problem and the new tax structure is a small but adequate contribution on solving this problem.

For years in this House, Mr Speaker, Sir, I had campaigned for an increase in the tax on tobacco, cigarettes, wines and liquor. The former Minister of Finance had stubbornly refused to heed my call on the ground that the optimum level of taxation had been reached for these items and to increase the tax further would be counter productive. However, I take the view that the former Minister was wrong, for the middle and upper class and even the working class sometimes who wants to have a puff of cigarettes or entertain his friends, will continue to do so even if these taxes are raised. Hence, I welcome these new taxes on these items.

When we debated the Land Speculation Tax last year, many of us on both sides of the House said that the ceiling of \$200,000 was too high and would not curb land speculation. Hence, I welcome the move to lower the ceiling to \$100,000 and I have no doubt that it will now greatly reduce land speculation and bring in additional revenue as well.

Gaming Tax

I am delighted that the gaming tax can now be effectively implemented for casinos, but I call on the Government not to issue any more licences for other casinos. National Front interests are involved in gambling in this country, and I do not expect the Government to do anything serious about this social evil. Already we have Toto, we have Empat Ekor, Social Welfare Lotteries, Turf Clubs, and to me there is already too much organised and private and unorganised gambling in this country. Hence, I am alarmed that the Prime Minister has approved or is about to approve a licence for another form of gambling, namely "36 Numbers". This is akin to the "Chee Fah" amongst the Chinese. The Pekemas protests most vehemently against this further extension of gambling in this country. Already there is too much gambling in this country and, in this time of recession and inflation when it is vital to bend all our energies to gainful employment and work, we cannot afford to have our citizen squandering away their time and money at the gambling tables. Besides, Islam is the official religion in this country and yet the Barisan Government is actively advocating the spread of gambling in this country. Hence, the Pekemas calls on the

Prime Minister to put a stop to another extension of public gambling in this country, and if the licence for "36 Numbers" has already been approved, it should be revoked.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the selective relaxation of credits to Bumiputras, but I would urge the Minister to consider the plight of the non-Bumiputra businessmen who should not be starved of credit when they too have productive projects. Let it not be said that the Bumiputras in these difficult times will enjoy growth while the non-Bumiputras have to cope with inflation.

I am amazed that the Minister, in his lengthy speech, has not spared a single thought for public debt and debt servicing. However, on page 39 of the Economic Report, it has this to say and I quote:

"The Public Debt situation continues to be favourable and is not a cause of major concern for the Federal Government."

This is sweeping our problem under the carpet with a vengeance. Contrast this unconcern and optimism with the Budget speech made by Tun Tan last year. Tun Tan then expressed concern about the rising public debt and the rising cost of debt servicing. He went on to say and I quote:

"I feel that we should live with this state of affairs for a little while more. At the same time, we cannot afford to be complacent and hence I have asked both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to send out separate teams to advise us on this matter."

This, of course, was the view of a Minister who had vast experience on the finances of this country, and yet our present Minister of Finance is very complacent about this state of affairs.

Let us look at the rapidly increasing public debt and the rising cost of debt servicing. At the end of 1974, the public debt stood at \$8,923 million of which 85% was domestic borrowing and the foreign debt element was 13.6%. In 1960, servicing of our national debt amounted to 8.8% of the Ordinary Expenditure. In 1973, it rose to 13% and this year it again rose further to 13.4%. Next year, it will be 14.78%, which means that for every dollar spent on the Current or Ordinary Expenditure, 14.78 cents goes towards debt servicing. This year, debt servicing accounted for \$482.9

millions which is \$45 million or 10% more than the 1973 provision. Next year, it has been raised to \$683.7 million, which is \$200.8 million or 43.5% more than this year's allocation. These stark figures must send a chill through the hearts of the people of this country. Unless it is curbed, it means that we will have to cut back on other much needed expenditures in order to service our public debts. Again, I reiterate, we must not load generations yet unborn in this country with our public debts.

Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the declared policies of the Alliance Government and now the Barisan, is to eradicate poverty and narrow the gap between the have and the have-nots. This is revealed on page 84 of the Economic Report 1974-1975, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, I shall quote very briefly from the speech on "Economic Progress in Malaysia, How widely has it been shared?" given by Professor Charles Hirschman at the U.M.B.C. Managers Conference held on 1st September, 1974. Table 2 of that speech on Household Income Distribution, Peninsular Malaysia, 1957 and 1970 states:

"The highest 20% of households in 1957 had 49.3%; by 1970, it had gone up to 55.5%. The next 20% of households in 1957 had 20.5%; in 1970 it had gone up a little to 20.7%. The Middle 20% of households in 1957 had 14.3%; in 1970 it had gone down to 12.4%. The next 20% of households in 1957 had 10.1%; in 1970, it had gone down to 7.9%. The lowest 20% of households in 1957 had 5.8%; in 1970, it had gone down to 4.0%. The highest 5% of households in 1957 had 23.3% of the total income; in 1970 it had gone up to 27.7%."

The distribution of households in terms of dollars. "In 1957, the highest 20% of households had \$535; by 1970, it had gone up to \$745, a rise of 39%. The next 20% of households had \$220 in 1957; by 1970, it had gone up to \$280 a rise of 26%. The middle 20% of households in 1957 had \$155; by 1970 it had gone up to \$168, a rise of 8%. The next 20% of households in 1957 had \$110; in 1970 it had gone down to \$107, a deficit of 3%. The lowest 20% of households in 1957 had \$63; in 1970 it had \$54, a fall of 14%."

Mr Speaker, Sir, from the foregoing tables, it will be seen that in 1957 the top of household received about half of the total income. The next 20% got their proportionate share of 20%, but the remaining 60% shared 30% of the total income and the richest 5% of households received 23.3% of the income—this was nearly the same as the income received by the bottom 60% of households.

The trend from 1957 to 1970 is even more depressing if one analyses it. The change in distribution of income from 1957 to 1970 shows that the pattern of inequality had increased over the period 1957 to 1970. The richest 20% of households had increased their share from 49% to 55% of the income. The lowest 60% of households saw the share of their income reduced. The poorest 20% of households by 1970 was now receiving only 4% of all income.

The second table shows that the bottom 40% of the households actually received fewer dollars of income in 1970 than they did in 1957. The bottom 20% on the average received only \$54.00 per month compared to \$63.00 in 1957. These tables show clearly that during the 13 years of Alliance rule since Merdeka till 1970, the rich have become richer and the poor have gotten poorer. All the increase in household income over this 13-year period was received by the upper half of the households, most of it by the top 20% of households.

The have-nots have not only become poorer in the relative sense that the gap between them and the haves has widened, but also in absolute terms their actual income is less in 1970 than it was in 1957.

From the tables that I have quoted, it will be seen that about 50% of the households in Malaysia live in poverty and their numbers have increased rather than diminished since Merdeka in 1957. This bears out what I I have always stated and it is a terrible indictment on the 13 years of Alliance rule, and I ask what manner of the restructuring of society the Alliance and now the Barisan has planned for us when the privileged few rich become richer and the vast majority of the poor become poorer?

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is evident that with recession and inflation, retrenchment and unemployment, the workers are in for a

rough time and their fate will soon be a tragic one unless Government takes immediate steps to improve their lot.

A sign of the times is the extent of industrial unrest. The number of man-days lost increased by 205% in the first nine months of this year is significant. If the Government does not take immediate and urgent steps to improve the lot of the workers, the degrees of unrest will grow. It is important that a more enlightened wages policy be introduced and the real earnings of the workers protected.

I urge the Government, if it is really serious and sincere in protecting the welfare of the poor workers, to do index linking of wages with trends in the consumer price index. This method has been tried successfully in Canada and Brazil. It is only equitable that wages have to be protected in real terms as profits have an advantages, in that they are always adjusted by the businessmen in period of inflation. Already the poor Malays and the non-Malays too are in desperate straits even as the wealthy Malays and other tycoons grow rich beyond their wildest dream and yet are not satisfied.

The action of the N.E.B. workers and other strikes, picketings, lockouts, etc. are a warning to the Government that workers are desperate and angered. I have already shown that the gap between the haves and the have-nots has widened and it is not being narrowed in real terms and the wages of the workers have shrunken. How can they survive, Mr Speaker, Sir, if in these days of inflation their wages in real terms shrink? This is a question that the Government must seriously ponder upon and must find immediate solutions unless the Government wants a wide-spread industrial unrest in this country.

4.05 ptg.

Raja Nasron bin Raja Ishak (Kuala Selangor): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sebelum Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri selaku Menteri Kewangan menyampaikan Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 di Dewan yang mulia ini, memang banyak ada didengar ramalan-ramalan dan spekulasi yang tidak menyenangkan, tetapi sekarang boleh dikatakan semua peringkat mengemukakan kepuasan hati masing-masing dan menganggap bahawa Belanjawan yang dibentangkan oleh Menteri Kewangan itu

adalah wajar dan adil memandangkan kepada keadaan di luar dan di dalam negeri kita dan juga keadaan antarabangsa.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, negara kita tidak akan dapat melarikan diri atau terlepas daripada bahang keadaan antarabangsa iaitu dari kesan-kesan kemerosotan yang ada sekarang. Apa yang diharapkan ialah keadaan itu tidak akan berterusan. Selewat-lewatnya pada awal tahun 1976 keadaan negara-negara perusahaan akan pulih dan ini pula akan membawa kepada kepulihan keadaan di seluruh dunia. Pada ketika ini pun negara-negara yang menguasai bahan-bahan seperti minyak, gula, tepung, beras dan lain-lain sedang membuat rundingan dan mencari langkah-langkah yang sepatutnya dibuat untuk mengawal keadaan inflasi di seluruh dunia ini. Kita percaya bahawa mereka tidak akan membelakangkan kepentingan negara-negara kecil dan negara-negara yang sedang membangun. Pendek kata, apa yang telah diramalkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Menteri Kewangan, sungguhpun beliau bukan seorang malaikat ataupun bukan Raja Sulaiman, adalah bukan berdasarkan kepada sangka-sangka ataupun angka-angka tetapi sesudah dikaji aspek-aspek di luar dan di dalam negeri.

Saya suka menyampaikan ucapan tahniah saya kepada Kementerian Kewangan yang telah dapat menyediakan suatu Belanjawan sebagaimana saya nyatakan tadi tanpa membawa kesusahan kepada rakyat jelata keseluruhannya. Dan di sini saya suka menyatakan kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat dari pihak pembangkang, saya percaya tidak ada siapa pun daripada golongan mereka yang boleh membuat satu persediaan Belanjawan yang lebih daripada yang telah disediakan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Kewangan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, adalah penting bagi kita semua, terutama Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat untuk menerangkan kepada rakyat jelata bahawa keadaan inflasi itu bukanlah hanya di Malaysia sahaja didapati tetapi di seluruh dunia. Bahkan keadaan kita di Malaysia tidak begitu buruk jika dibandingkan dengan negara-negara lain. Rakyat jelata, bukanlah semuanya daripada golongan orang-orang bijak-pandai (intellectual) atau orang-orang terpelajar yang boleh mengerti selok-belok kaitan negara kita dengan keadaan antarabangsa.

Saya menganggap bahawa sesiapa jua yang mengambil kesempatan membuat keadaan inflasi sekarang ini sebagai satu issue untuk kepentingan dirinya ataupun untuk kepentingan partinya mengapi-apikan rakyat adalah golongan anti-nasional dan tindakan sewajarnya diambil ke atas mereka. Kita boleh bertikam lidah di Dewan yang mulia ini, kita boleh bertengkar di Dewan yang mulia ini, tetapi habiskanlah di sini sahaja. Nasihat ini, saya tujukan kepada Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat dari parti Pembangkang.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, izinkan saya meminta penjelasan daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat itu.

Tuan (Timbalan) Yang di-Pertua: Ahli Yang Berhormat hendak menegur di bawah Peraturan 37 (a) atau (b)?

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Saya hendak meminta penjelasan daripada beliau.

Tuan (Timbalan) Yang di-Pertua: Kalau Ahli Yang Berhormat itu bersetuju, boleh.

Raja Nasron bin Raja Ishak: Saya tidak bersetuju memberi jalan.

Tuan (Timbalan) Yang di-Pertua: Kalau Ahli Yang Berhormat tidak bersetuju, sila teruskan ucapan.

Raja Nasron bin Raja Ishak: Kerana pada pendapat saya inilah masanya semua lapisan warganegara Malaysia membuktikan taat setia mereka di dalam menghadapi masalah inflasi itu. Apa yang perlu ialah perpaduan dan persefahaman walau apapun ideologi siasah kita. Di samping itu, Kerajaan hendaklah mengawasi dengan sikap yang tegas mencegah sebarang percubaan dari pihak-pihak yang tidak bertanggungjawab menggunakan sebagai alasan kenaikan cukai untuk menaikkan pula harga barang-barang dan alat-alat yang tidak kena-mengena dengan kenaikan cukai tersebut. Kerajaan jua hendaklah bersikap tegas mengambil tindakan di dalam menjayakan kempen-kempen anti-sorok. Orang-orang yang tidak bertanggungjawab menambahkan keburukan keadaan inflasi sekarang dengan menyorokkan barang-barang hendaklah dikenakan seberat-berat hukuman pada segi undang-undang supaya menjadi tauladan kepada yang lain.

Di sini bukanlah saya hendak mengecil-kecilkan undang-undang ataupun mengecil-kecilkan keputusan mahkamah, tetapi apa yang terjadi tidak berapa lama dahulu iaitu satu perkara menyorokkan gula berharga lebih \$1.4 juta telah menjadi satu tanda-tanya yang besar—wang berkuasa (money talks) iaitu jika seseorang mempunyai wang apa pun kesalahan yang dilakukannya dengan menggunakan kuasa wang dan dengan menggunakan peguam-peguam yang bijak dan terkenal, maka orang itu akan berjaya melepaskan diri daripada tuduhan-tuduhan yang dihadapinya.

Apa yang perlu di sini ialah pegawai-pegawai yang bertugas, bekerja di dalam kempen-kempen anti-sorok hendaklah pegawai-pegawai yang benar-benar mempunyai pengalaman yang luas. Bukan sahaja pengalaman untuk menangkap, tetapi untuk membawa perkara-perkara tersebut di mahkamah dengan hujah-hujah dan dengan bukti-bukti yang tidak dapat dipusing-belitkan oleh peguam-peguam yang membela.

Satu perkara jua yang dianggap mustahak bagi Kerajaan mengawasi ialah mencegah percubaan yang akan dibuat oleh pengeluar-pengeluar merendahkan mutu barang-barang keluaran mereka untuk mendapat keuntungan yang berlebihan, misalnya, minyak rambut, sabun, serbuk kopi, gula, beras dan ratasan lagi alat-alat makanan dan pakaian. Misalnya, jikalau minyak rambut itu dicampurkan dengan bahan yang lain supaya mutunya direndahkan dan dijual kepada pengguna-pengguna, maka siapa juga yang menggunakan minyak rambut itu mungkin rambutnya gugur, dia menjadi botak ataupun belum sampai masanya rambutnya putih beruban. Begitu juga alat-alat solek, kalau dengan tipu-daya ini merbahaya bagi pengguna-pengguna, boleh jadi kulitnya akan sakit dan sebagainya. Begitu juga benda-benda makanan seperti kopi, kalau dicampurkan dengan bahan-bahan yang lain, katakanlah kacang, jagung, beras maka ini juga mendatangkan keburukan kepada pengguna-pengguna. Di sini, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Jabatan Kimia hendaklah bertanggungjawab mengawal kejadian-kejadian tersebut. Orang-orang di luarbandar juga hendaklah dilindungi daripada menjadi mangsa menaik dan menurunkan mutu barang keluaran luarbandar, misalannya, getah beku atau cair didapati pembeli-pembeli menentukan quality atau

grading sesuka hati mereka tanpa kawalan. Getah beku atau cair yang Gred I dibeli oleh mereka dengan harga Gred III. Kawalan hendaklah diperketatkan bagi melindungi kaum-kaum tani dan pekebun-pekebun kecil.

Saya berpendapat bahawa di luarbandar, di kampung-kampung, ketua-ketua kampung ataupun penghulu-penghulu atau penggawa-penggawa memainkan peranan yang penting menghubungi rakyat dengan Kerajaan. Mereka adalah saya anggap sebagai pegawai perhubungan. Pegawai-pegawai inilah hubungan yang pertama bagi penduduk-penduduk luarbandar menggunakan mereka untuk menyampaikan maklumat dan sebagainya membantu Kerajaan mencegah anasir-anasir jahat yang boleh membinasakan negara. Dari itu patut benarlah rumah-rumah penghulu ataupun penggawa-penggawa dan ketua-ketua kampung ini dilengkapi dengan talipon. Inflasi atau tidak inflasi perkara ini dianggap sangat perlu diutamakan. Pejabat-pejabat penghulu dan penggawa-penggawa pun hendaklah diperbaiki agar seimbang dengan tanggungjawab mereka. Keadaan sekarang sangat-sangat tidak memuaskan.

Sebagai penutupnya, saya suka menyentuh berkenaan dengan kebudayaan dan adat-istiadat yang sedang giat digalakkan oleh Kementerian yang berkenaan untuk menggambarkan perpaduan kaum di negara kita. Memang diakui bahawa melalui kebudayaan, kita akan dapat mencipta persefahaman yang erat dan berkekalan. Adat istiadat yang dipusakai oleh berbagai kaum di negara kita inipun adalah penting dihormati, kerana inilah maka satu daripada ajaran di dalam Rukunegara ialah: Menghormati kesopanan dan kesusilaan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya suka meminta izin untuk menyentuh di sini kejadian tidak berapa lama dahulu, iaitu seorang saudara baru yang telah menukar namanya apabila memeluk agama Islam dengan menggunakan nama pusaka adat-istiadat Melayu, iaitu "Raja". Kalau nama dia misalnya Ah Chong maka dia gunakan nama Raja Mohamad bin Raja Abdullah bila dia masuk memeluk agama Islam. Perbuatan ini bertentangan dengan adat Melayu kerana gelaran pusaka seperti Tengku, Raja, Pengiran, Abang, Radin, Syed, Nik, Wan, Megat, Mior dan lain-lain hanya boleh digunakan, pada segi adat kita, oleh mereka yang berketurunan mempusakai gelaran

itu. Saya minta supaya pihak yang bertanggungjawab seperti kadhi dan imam dan badan-badan swasta seperti PERKIM menasihatkan bakal-bakal saudara baru untuk mengelakkan tersinggung adat-istiadat pusaka Melayu yang boleh mendatangkan silap faham.

Saya berpendapat bahawa bukan semua boleh dibeli dengan wang. Ada adat resam Melayu yang tidak dapat dijual-beli walau dengan harga apapun, dan inilah yang hendak dikekalkan selama-lamanya sebagai pusaka kedaulatan Melayu; tidak dapat dijejaskan oleh hujan atau panas atau apa musim sekalipun.

4.20 ptg.

Datuk Peter Lo Su Yin (Gaya): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun untuk menyokong Rang Undang-undang dan Usul yang dicadangkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Menteri merangkap Menteri Kewangan, dan saya minta izin untuk bercakap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

(Dengan izin) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to begin by congratulating the Honourable Finance Minister on his Budget speech. It is an inspiring speech and one that is bound, if it has not already done so, to help boost sagging morale among our people in these rather uncertain times. For we cannot deny, as the Honourable Finance Minister has not denied, and indeed he has admitted it in the most forthright manner, that Malaysia, in common with the other countries of the world, both developed and developing, is going through a period of stress and strain due to stagflation, the magnitude of which appears to threaten the very fabric of life of many a country. It is against this general background of unhappy events that the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister should be judged. And judged in this way, the speech is an unusual document, for document it is, in terms of achievements and prospects. Would all Finance Ministers the world over be in a position to do likewise!

Sir, many will say that Malaysia is simply fortunate in that it is endowed with vast natural resources and so is better equipped to meet the challenge ahead. And many will say, too, that Malaysia is "all right" simply because it is under the charge of a wise and

responsible Government. Both views are undoubtedly correct, but for my part, I would say that Malaysia owes its success to both of the considerations referred to. Thus, it is Malaysia's judicious use of its assets that it has managed to build up a strong economy and a sound financial base and it is Malaysia's continual use, again in a judicious way, of those assets that we shall ultimately weather the storm of stagflation.

Sir, the Government's counter-cyclical policy as an instrument for effecting a balance for the growth of a healthy economy must be pursued with greater vigour now than it has ever done before. The policy should be tilted in favour of spending more money by the public sector instead of imposing constraints on spending. Spending is necessary to mitigate the effects of recession, which have proved fatal to certain industries in a number of cases. I believe there is at no time, as it now is, a greater need to inject massive funds by the Government into the economy for purposes either of salvage work, or better still, for expansion of industries relevant to our needs. To say this is not to ignore the world's economic trends. Nor is it to propound views which may be regarded as heretical. It is rather to emphasise the point that, as we have what might conveniently be described as a "mixed economy", we can focus our attention a little more on projects which have or might be thought to have a greater relevance to the country's capacity to produce both from the point of view of exports and in terms of our requirements. It is, in a way, a shift of direction in the implementation of programmes, and thus it is more a matter of a change of tactics rather than a change of substance.

Having said this, Sir, I suggest that we ought not to be slow, or even timid, to spend money merely because projects which are in the pipeline could only be carried out at costs which are high compared to estimates when those projects were planned for. As I have said, our economic and financial position is strong. Also our reserves are high, and our borrowings, both from outside and inside of the country, are small compared with those of many countries regarded as far more advanced than us. To be sure, we can afford it. And what is more, I am confident that when the projects are completed they will pay handsome dividends in the

long-term, so that we could all look back in time and say that our policy of growth, geared as it is to the country's economic strength, was both wise and sound. In any event, I do not believe that, embarking on expansionary programmes of projects, whether economic or otherwise, constitutes a risk such as to jeopardise our general well-being in the future. At worst, it is a calculated risk and one which we are fully justified to take since any damage that might thereby be occasioned will have only minimal effect on the economy as a whole.

Speaking of projects in the pipeline, Sir, I would therefore make the plea that Government should go ahead with its plans to implement them as expeditiously as possible. There should be no deferment of implementation as in the case of the three General Hospitals planned for Sabah under the Second Malaysia Plan. The need for these hospitals is urgent, and our people would be greatly disappointed if plans to build them are now shelved merely because of high prices in building materials. In any event, there is no guarantee that prices in building materials will come down lower than they have; and if the world's economic trends are any guide, prices tend to go up rather than come down; unless we say that the present trends are an unusual and indeed an abnormal phenomenon which will dissipate in time. Apart from which, the health of the people cannot really be postponed and we therefore owe it to them to do the best we can whatever the cost may be.

Similarly, Sir, Government should speed up the construction of the three main trunk roads in Sabah. This refers particularly to the East-West Highway linking Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan, a highway which has been under construction on an off-and-on basis for as long as one cares to remember. The road is vitally important to the people and country, connecting as it does the two major towns in Sabah across some of the most fertile land in the region. I cannot therefore emphasise too strongly the need to complete the construction of this road especially in regard to sealing the surface on that portion of the road commencing from Mile 26 or thereabout on the Sandakan side right up to Telupid. In the past, delays were perhaps inevitable due to lack of stones. Now that the Government has responded favourably to the call for funds to set up quarries

by the Public Works Department, to the tune of some \$3.2 million, there is really no reason why construction should be further delayed.

Sir, as the Government is only too well aware, Sabah relies to a considerable extent for its prosperity on the timber industry through the export of round logs. Due to the recession in trade, the industry has now come almost to a standstill resulting, according to reports here and there, in some 15,000 workers being laid off. This is a sizeable work force on any view, and one which we can ignore only at our peril. Already, one effect of the cessation of work is the marked increase in the incidence of crime. Thefts, big and small, and indeed robberies, are slowly but steadily becoming the order of the day. We read only yesterday in the newspapers of the apparent loss of \$½ million whilst being transported on board an MAS plane. This is a most disturbing turn of events. Sabah, which until recently prided itself as a most peaceful place on earth, is no longer in this enviable position; it has, so to speak, joined the big league. As a consequence, our Police Force, which are small in numbers but are otherwise superbly trained, have to work overtime to take preventive measures and to take other actions to bring the culprits to book. The task of doing this is putting a severe strain on them. This seems hardly fair; and the answer must be either to increase the strength of the Force, or to create jobs for the unemployed. As a long-term proposition, it is always wiser to carry out the latter task.

There is a case, then, Sir, to create more job opportunities in Sabah before the rot sets in. This means (1) that we must start to create more labour-intensive industries in the State and (2) that no projects envisaged, or actually blueprinted under the Second Malaysia Plan, should be deferred in the interest of so-called economy. We cannot just wait and wait for the world economy to pick up again. Too much damage will have been caused by then, and we may find that subsequent repairs to the damage may prove to be long and expensive.

Sir, it is good to hear from the speech of the Honourable Finance Minister that food production will be speeded up. This is a step in the right direction and one which should receive the whole-hearted support of everyone of us. Too often we tend to forget that there is a world-wide shortage of food, and

we seem to think that inflation is the beginning and end of the problems confronting the world. Sir, the spectre of famine looms large in many a horizon. With this consideration in mind, and with our past experiences of the difficulty of obtaining rice supplies, due to poor harvest or other reasons, it would be criminal negligence not to take notice of the storm signals that lie ahead. We welcome, then, the plan to intensify the growing of rice. We welcome, in particular, without seeming to sound selfish, the plan to open up vast tracts of land to grow this crop in Sabah and Sarawak, since these two States depend largely for their requirements on outside sources. It may well be that in undertaking large-scale cultivation, we will produce more than we need, but there is a ready market for this commodity. And, believing as we all do that charity always begins at home, we can nevertheless afford to be a little generous to less fortunate countries in times of want, on humanitarian grounds.

So far, Sir, I have spoken of rice cultivation. There is also obviously a need to grow more foodstuffs, such as tapioca, sago, vegetables and fruits. Again this need is even more pronounced in Sabah than in any other States in Malaysia. We should therefore, begin the task at once. We should provide incentives to the growers—in the form of various subsidies, such as land, fertilisers and seedlings, for like all human activities to satisfy human wants, the result must be rewarding to those engaged in these activities. Above all, we need to provide a ready market for their produce at fair and reasonable prices. And we ought to provide suitable transport facilities for the produce to be collected. As things now stand, there is a high proportion of waste due to lack of marketing facilities, with the result that vegetables and fruits are left to rot in the kebun or, when they have been taken out, by the roadside. This, of course, is a great pity.

Sir, it only remains for me to say a word or two about the tax measures as proposed in the Budget, by way of conclusion. The measures are eminently fair, and should not create too great a hardship on our people. Indeed, the fact that the Government has not gone farther than they have on tax impositions, is testimony of our financial strength, and an affirmation of our determination not to lag behind on development progress in all fields.

4.38 *ptg.*

Dr Chen Man Hin (Seremban): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya ingin bercakap sedikit tentang Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975, dan Usul yang dikemukakan oleh Menteri Kewangan berkenaan Anggaran Pembangunan, 1975. Di sini saya minta izin bercakap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

(Dengan izin) Tuan Yang di-Pertua, just before the Honourable Finance Minister delivered his speech on the 1975 Budget, there were three questions uppermost in the minds of the people.

The first question was, as a Budget deficit was anticipated, what new taxes would be imposed and would these be painful?

The second question was, what new measures were there to counter the effects of inflation?

And the third question was, what steps would be taken to boost the economy in recession and to provide jobs for the retrenched workers?

By and large the new taxes affect those who could afford to pay and the poor and the low income groups have been spared this time. This was a wise move, considering that the low income groups have been affected severely by the present high rate of inflation. The Honourable Finance Minister in his first Budget has started on the right foot and it is hoped that future Budgets would continue to spare the poor.

However, the 1975 Budget does not relieve the accumulated suffering of the poor as a result of the previous Budgets. As a Budget to fight inflation and to counter recession, it has fallen far short of expectations. The Budget is inadequate as an anti-inflationary weapon and neither is it anti-recessionary. The fall in the Consumer Price Index from 21.4 at the beginning of the year to 16 in September this year might have given the impression to the Finance Minister that inflationary forces are under control and that no new radical measures are indicated. Let not the Price Index give a false sense of complacency.

The people are still suffering from the agonies of inflation, especially the poor and the low income groups. They spend about 80% of their income on food alone. The

Consumer Price Index is still in the two-digit region. The price of sugar has shot up by 10 cents a kati recently. Flour has gone up by 10 cents a pound, an increase of about 25%. Inflation is not abating yet and with the prospects of a worldwide shortage of grain, it is not likely to come down to manageable levels so soon. As an anti-inflationary gesture, the excise duty of one cent per pound on condensed milk has been removed. Another measure is the proposed National Savings Bank which is designed to mop up excess money or liquidity by encouraging the people to save. The snag is that at this period of recession, there is not much excess money to save for the average person or family. The Government intends to open up half a million acres for food production which is a good thing, but it takes a lot of time for implementation to proceed and by which time inflation may have gone out of hand.

In the strategy to counter recession, it is proposed to double the loans and advances to the manufacturing sector and for individual housing loans from 20% to 40%, in the hope that more industries will spring up and the housing construction will be revived. Unfortunately, it is not just tight money that is hampering industries and construction but it is the prevailing extraordinarily high interest rates which deter potential investors and house-buyers. For the average house buyer, inflation has eaten into his income and he cannot save as much as he used to. This, coupled with the high interest rates, would make it difficult to fulfil his commitments to the bank should he decide to buy a house. Therefore, he is not likely to invest in a house under the present conditions. The same goes for the manufacturer, who will have to contend with the high interest rates and a worsening recession.

To be effective as an instrument to counter recession, the lifting the ceiling for loans to the manufacturing and house-ownership sectors, there should have been a lowering of the interest rates as well.

The selective lowering of credit should also be extended to food production. At the moment, tight credit, high interest rates and high cost of fertilisers are dissuading potential investors in food production such as livestock rearing and farming. Since food production is going to play an important

role to combat rising food prices and to stave off starvation in the coming critical years of famine and food shortages, the selective relaxation of credit should also be allowed here.

On the road tax for motor vehicles, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no outcry against this increase of road tax except for motorcycle owners who feel that the \$10 increase is unfair as they belong to the low income groups. On the other hand, there is support for higher road tax for the bigger cars in the luxury range, i.e. those above 2,000 c.c. or more. The new road tax for large cars is much too mild, much too low, and could be increased four-fold and yet not hurt the pockets of luxury car owners. The additional road tax on motorcycles should be withdrawn.

On the bonus limit, Mr. Speaker, Sir, employees fear that the limit of two months bonus as tax deductible expenditure to the employer may well mean that their annual bonus will be limited to two months only. Traditionally, firms give huge bonuses at the end of the year when business is good and employees look forward to these bonuses. With this new limitation, it is most likely that the annual bonus would become smaller and the take-home earnings of thousands of shop assistants, clerks and workers will be affected.

On the Budget deficit, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when both the Operational and Development Expenditures are taken into account together, the estimated excess of expenditure over revenue for 1975 will be \$1,430 million. By any account, this is a huge deficit and will also increase the public debt.

The total debt of the Federal Government at the end of 1974 stood at \$8,923 million according to the Treasury's Economic Report. By the end of 1975, it will be \$10,353 million. With a population of 11.6 million, it works out to be a per capita debt of \$892 or nearly \$900 debt per person. Fortunately, a greater proportion of this public debt is from domestic sources such as the Employees Provident Fund where the people's monies are deposited and from public loans or Treasury bills floated by the Government now and then. Were the public debt to be largely from foreign sources, then the ringgit would be in trouble and our credit standing jeopardised.

The unhappy part is that the public debt keeps on rising every year by about 10%, and every year servicing of this debt takes about 9% to 10% of the current revenue. For example, in 1974, this year, 13% of the current revenue of \$4,400 million is required to service the public debt, that is \$483 million is required this year to pay off a portion of the debt. If there had been more careful spending, there would not be the necessity to service a debt of \$4,400 million or more which could be put to much better use such as low cost housing, free schooling and education up to university level.

Mr Speaker, Sir, ways and means must be found to cut down unnecessary spending. The Ministers themselves should set the lead by an austere style of living. Big and flashy cars should be avoided. This is a time of recession and austerity should be the code word. Overseas jaunts should be out. Prestige projects and lavish expenditure on holidays should also be disallowed. There is need for a closer look at the expenditure side of the Budget. For example, Mr Speaker, Sir, the defence and security share of the expenditure is still high. The question is asked as to whether this could be pared down to a more reasonable level. There is a case for this. There is now detente between the superpowers and the Cold War with its accompanying tensions having waned or diminished.

The concept of neutralisation of South East Asia is gaining wider acceptance, especially among the countries in South East Asia. True, there is still a communist menace in the jungles, but with the general gathering momentum for peace, a second look at the defence expenditure should be made and the money conserved for more productive uses in the field of economic expansion or in the field of education where vocational and technical colleges are so urgently needed. Indeed, the recruits for the defence and security forces could be channelled to these institutes thereby transforming them into productive citizens in the manufacturing or in the agricultural industries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a sum of \$2,306 million has been appropriated for Development Expenditure. This is a huge sum of money to be spent and is part of the Government strategy to play a counter cyclical role to

fight off recession. But it will be largely responsible for the estimated overall deficit of \$1,490 million for 1975.

Many well-known economists agree that deficit budgets are notoriously responsible for inflation, and some even go so far as to say that the deficit is financed by printing more money. I would not like to believe that this is true in this country and we would like an assurance from the Honourable Finance Minister that each Malaysian dollar has a definite gold parity of 0.290299 grammes of fine gold as promised.

As for Development Expenditure, a stricter definition of "development" is required, and such Expenditure should be approved only when the project is economic and productive. Spending on uneconomic and unproductive projects will not bring in the returns and deficit budgets may well become a permanent feature, a most unpleasant prospect. It will be like pouring in money down a deep, deep, bottomless pit.

Mr Speaker, Sir, inflation is not a new phenomenon. It happened in Scotland in the 18th century, in France during the Revolution of 1789, in the United States during the Civil War period and in Germany in 1922. The German example is perhaps the most well-known, where inflation went completely out of control until eventually the price of a dozen eggs was one billion marks. The then Federation of Malaya, in 1941-45 during the Japanese Occupation, also had a runaway inflation where a bowl of "mee" would cost about 30 Japanese "banana dollars". However, these examples occurred and were confined to one nation at a time, and the inflation soon abated or was resolved when the country returned to gold or silver as a base.

Inflation today is a world-wide affliction, barring the communist bloc, and its resolution is that much difficult, unless there is international consensus. This year the inflation rate is 26% in Japan, 18% in Malaysia, 7.3% in West Germany and 12% in USA.

For a country like ours with vast natural resources, an estimated inflation rate of 18%—it may well go up to 20% or more judging by present conditions—is highly regrettable. Moreover, the large majority of the people are poor with an average income of \$250 per month for the average household (say, 5 persons per household). These people

are badly affected by inflation, and the latest barrage of price increase of 10 cents per kati of sugar, another 10 cents for one pound of flour, and 40 cents extra for each pound of milk powder and so on has shocked the people badly. They are all crying for action to stop these prices increases.

West Germany kept its annual inflation rate to a respectable 7% by tight money policies and good export performance. Malaysia, with its natural resources should do as well, if not better with the correct monetary policies, more exports and better productivity from the people, be they farmers, workers, clerks or managers. The people are weighed down with rising prices and rising unemployment, and to relieve them of this twin burden, an effective economic programme is required. The D.A.P. calls for:

- (1) An efficient price control system, where a Price Control Committee will study all the factors of pricing of controlled and essential goods before allowing a price increase. If conditions turn out for the better, the same Price Control Committee can also authorise a price production.
- (2) A profits control body which should see that no undue profits are made through exploitation of the people by large companies or syarikat-syarikat.
- (3) A fair wages council which would see that wages are turned to the inflationary rise of food and other consumer goods.
- (4) Greater efforts to look for cheaper sources of sugar, flour, milk and fertilisers, other than traditional suppliers. Our missions abroad should look for cheaper sources of these products.
- (5) The abolition of the Sales Tax, because it is one of the chief domestic or local cause of inflation. There are evidences and complaints that the Sales Tax is not a single-stage tax, but is multi-staged. It is also a regressive form of tax.
- (6) Reduction of the Government tax on oil. The daily production of 100,000 barrels of oil from our off-shores is sufficient for the country's needs, and therefore a way must be found to translate this into cheaper oil for the people. With cheap oil, manufactured goods would be cheaper, transportation would

cost less and fuel for domestic use would also be priced lower.

- (7) Land must be given to those who want to grow food either to sustain themselves or for commercial purposes. A survey of all arable land should be made and allocated to genuine farmers. Everywhere there is the common sight of thousands of acres of vacant land, unused and untilled. This is a shameful waste of good land, from which, with proper organisation and in good hands, valuable food can be grown for the table or the market.
- (8) Free education up to university level. During these hard times, school fees should not be levied, and children of poor parents should be given the opportunity to study as much as they can.
- (9) Interest on savings with the National Saving Bank or with the commercial banks should be tax-free. This would encourage more savings and mop up the excess liquidity. People would be more inclined to deposit their money with Banks if the interests on these deposits are tax free.
- (10) A massive low cost housing scheme should be launched by the Government, so that shelter is given to the houseless who now have to pay high rentals for a small room or even a shack. Such a low cost housing programme will also provide employment for those retrenched from depressed industries.
- (11) A drive to encourage the manufacturing sector to export more and to earn more foreign exchange. Besides the selective relaxation of credit, lower interest rates and more export incentives should be provided.
- (12) A renewed efforts to seek more markets for rubber and timber and to intensify the research into more uses for rubber, palm oil and other commodities.
- (13) Petro-chemical complexes and fertiliser plants should be set up in different areas in the country. This would provide adequate and cheap fertilisers to farmers in food production areas.
- (14) The adoption of a more disciplined life style suited to Asian conditions. We must revert back to the traditional

way of life of hard work and ascetic living. The root cause of the present inflation is excess consumption over production—in other words, too much money chasing too few goods. If each of us could be more productive by working harder and consuming less, such as fewer lavish dinners, walking or cycling to work, there would be more goods to go round and prices would start to fall.

- (15) Government Ministers and leaders in all walks of life should set an example of austere living, for the people will only discipline themselves when they see their leaders are doing the same thing.
- (16) Lastly, the habit of recurrent annual budget deficits must stop. Huge budget deficits are a major cause of inflation. It is also true that in times of recession, money must be sought to prime the pump and get the economy moving, but let this House know that money is spent only on economic and productive projects.

On the unemployment situation, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Treasury's Economic Report states that at the end of September, 1974 registered unemployment was 137,202 compared to 151,874 in September, 1973. The monthly Newsletter of the Ministry of Labour states that the September 1974 figure of 137,202 indicated a drop of 3,582 over the previous month. Now, if we go by the figures supplied by official sources, then recession has not yet come to this country. But the Honourable Minister of Finance himself has hinted that recession is here. The answer is that obviously the thousands of workers who have been retrenched from textile mills, electronic industries and the timber industry have not bothered to register themselves at the Labour Exchange. Reliable sources say that the lack of overseas demand and the falling prices have forced about 150 sawmills to shut down in Peninsular Malaysia and another 200 or more are operating at half the usual pace. They also say that at least 15,000 sawmill workers and 10,000 loggers in Peninsular Malaysia are now jobless. Then again sources from Sabah state that 15,000 timber workers have been retrenched. Retrenchment in Indonesia and Singapore have also caused thousands of workers to return to Malaysia. With all

these reports of retrenchments, the number of non-registered workers must be quite considerable, and probably equal to, if not more than, the number registered at Labour Offices.

In fact, some economists predict that by the end of the year there will be at least 300,000 unemployed in the country. As the recession worsens, it is safe to assume that the number of jobless will increase. It is important to be able to project the percentage of unemployment in the coming months, so as to take measures to keep unemployment down, and to relocate the unemployed to new growth industries, such as the plan to increase food production on some half a million acres of land and in PETRONAS which has taken full charge of all activities related to oil exploration, refining and marketing.

Productive industries in the manufacturing sector should be encouraged to create new jobs and absorb the unemployed. Incentives to investors and to entrepreneurs should be given to promote the setting up of new factories. Many of the jobless youths that we see today are now hanging in groups at street corners idling away doing nothing. It is obvious that these youths will soon fall prey to exploiting agents who would lure them into crime or taking drugs. Here the Welfare Services Department and the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports should pay more attention and provide recreational facilities which would keep these youths busy in healthy activities. It is highly regrettable that in many parts of the country, there are lack of recreational facilities like foot-ball grounds, indoor sports stadiums, swimming pools and the like.

Job training for the unemployed is also important. Sample surveys reveal that many of these youths have passed the LCE and MCE examinations but few of them are trained in any form of skill. It is therefore imperative that more vocational and technical institutions be set-up in order that these youths be given specialised training to equip to seek employment more easily, as there is a definite shortage of skilled workers and personnel in the industrial sector.

Mr Speaker, Sir, on food production, it is now admitted that food prices have increased greatly this year. For the first nine months, the consumer price index for food rose by 30%, in contrast to the average 18%

for all items. Thus food prices is a major cause of inflation. Recognising this, the Government is now concentrating on food production and intends to open 500,000 acres for this purpose.

While this move is welcomed, more details are required. It is not clear where these food schemes will be located, how many acres will be allocated for grain such as padi or maize, how many acres for livestock rearing and whether these schemes will be run on collective or co-operative basis.

For the past year or so there have been calls to the people to grow more food. But the peasants and farmers asked, "Where is the land? Give us land". Therefore they wait expectantly for more details about the 500,000 acres allocated for food production. The problem is not shortage of farming manpower, but shortage of land. During these times of food shortages and high prices, land should be made readily available to farmers. The D.A.P. calls upon the Government to give land to the landless farmers and peasants, who can boost food production with the right type of assistance. These are:

1. Land reforms where the farmer himself will be the owner of the land and not the absentee landlord. It has been shown in countries where land is owned by the tiller or farmer the production of food has trebled or even quadrupled. Small plots of land can be parcelled out to individual farmers or large acreages of land can be run as co-operatives, or collectives. Whichever system is used, the tiller is the one who profits and profits is a big incentive for him to work harder and produce more.

2. Credit should be made available to the farmers to buy his implements, fuel and fertilisers.

3. Fertilisers should be sold to them at subsidised rates. The high cost of fertilisers is a disincentive and food production may suffer as is happening right now where because of fertiliser shortage the production of rice this year is estimated to have dropped. This is a shocking state of affairs and steps should be taken to supply fertilisers to farmers adequately.

4. Cheap fuel should also be available. Modern methods of farming include mechanised ploughing and harvesting. Cheap fuel for the farmers can cut the cost of food production and also increase productivity.

It is often said that despite the vast land resources in this country we still have to import much of our food. Rice production is not yet self-sufficient and about 200,000 tons have to be imported this year. Practically all the sugar is imported and this despite the fact that there are several large sugar plantations in the country. If more sugarcane could be planted locally, the price of sugar would not have to rise ever so often. The latest rise of 10 cents per kati is a big blow to the poor. What is happening to domestic sugar production? An Enquiry Committee should be set-up to look into the matter. The D.A.P. calls upon the Minister of Agriculture to set up a Special Commission to study why domestic sugar production is so slow and poor, and whether they should require assistance in the form of advice from the research boys of MARDI.

Of the total imports of \$9,400 million this year, some \$1,173 million is estimated to be spent on food, beverages and tobacco. It is not shown how much of this \$1,173 million was spent for food, but the proportion must be high. This is valuable foreign exchange earnings being spent unnecessarily. If there had been foresight and better planning, much of the type of food imported can be home-grown or reared. It is high time for the Ministry concerned with food production to gear food production not only for domestic consumption but also for export as well to earn foreign and to help to provide food for people starving in famine areas.

The whole world is facing a food crisis. Millions of people in developing countries are facing starvation. Malaysia should try to increase its food production to help these people as well.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with the passage of the Petroleum Development Act of 1974, petroleum ownership rights are now invested in Petroliam Nasional Berhad. PETRONAS came into operation in October 1974, but it must act quickly to ensure that the people benefit from the oil found in Malaysian territory.

The immediate tasks ahead will be—

- (1) The provision of cheap energy whether in the form of kerosene, petrol, diesel or fuel oil.
- (2) The establishment of refineries to refine most, if not all, of the oil, and change

the present ridiculous situation where only 20% of Malaysia's crude oil is refined locally, while 80% is exported.

- (3) The setting up of fertiliser plants to manufacture much needed fertilisers, because of the existing world-wide shortage and because this shortage has already affected the production of padi in the country. If the shortage persists, the two main export earners, rubber and palm oil may also be severely hit in the future. More than one petrochemical plant will be required. As a largely agricultural country and since food is now a top priority project, several petro-chemical complexes should be planned for this country in different areas.
- (4) With the active oil exploration in progress, the petroleum industry is expected to provide a good number of jobs. This is one field which can reduce the unemployment caused by the present recession. Attempts should be made to absorb workers who have been laid off in the timber industry or in the manufacturing sector. As the unemployed and the poor come from all races, it is hoped the work force of PETRONAS will reflect the multi-racial composition of the people.

While it is true to say that in the early stages of the petrol industry, foreign experts will have to be brought in and local personnel will have to seek specialised training overseas, whether in the U.S.A., Canada, France or the Middle East countries, plans must now be made for the establishment of local training facilities for our boys.

A college of oil engineering should be instituted where technicians and engineers can receive the teaching to equip them for oil exploration, oil extraction, refining and other branches of oil technology. As a lesson from rubber, research should also now be envisaged to look into the problems of the end uses of oil, for while oil is in great demand now because of the energy shortage, the situation may be altered in the future. Many countries are looking for alternative sources of energy, and it is therefore a wise policy now to prepare for the day when oil may become less popular.

(Tuan Yang di-Pertua *mempengerusikan Mesyuarat*)

On education, Mr Speaker, Sir, the estimated expenditure on education for 1975 is close to \$1.5 billion. Apart from the fact that this is a huge sum of money, there is also doubt as to whether the present education system is producing students equipped to serve a multi-racial society and whether the quality of education has improved to produce students who will be able to make Malaysia dynamic and progressive.

Because of the many complaints raised by parents and educationists, a special Ministerial Committee has been set-up to review the education system. This is welcome, but to achieve anything useful, this Committee must be open-minded in its approach and be prepared to listen to the voices and aspirations of parents in multi-racial Malaysia.

It would serve no purpose at all if a small group of Ministers and their friends merely sat at several meetings to exchange their own views (not the people's) and drew up a series of so-called educational reforms. In which case, the whole exercise is merely an act to whitewash the present inadequate educational system.

If the intention is to get to the root causes of the educational mess, then this Ministerial Committee must include impartial representatives from parents, educational specialists and Chinese and Tamil speaking educationists. An independent impartial Committee with members who are ready to speak out their minds will be more likely to produce solutions to the educational problems of this country.

This same Committee should be prepared to listen to the views and opinions of parents throughout the country. It must be prepared to travel to all parts of Malaysia and hold meetings with the people and meet the people. This is the best approach to find out the truth and obtain first-hand information of what the people really want.

Time and again we hear the Minister of Education and other Ministers also making decisions and refusing petitions by invoking the phrase "in the national interest". The national interest is the people's interest, and the people feel that changes or modifications

should be made to the educational system. Nothing is static in this world, and as pressures and demands change in a fast moving world, so must there be a flexible approach to education. If we are inflexible and do not adapt to changing demands, then we shall be left behind.

The educational system can be devised as to be an important instrument to unite the people, provided the aspirations of multi-racial Malaysians are heeded and implemented. Bahasa Malaysia as the national language will serve as the common language for Malaysians to communicate and interchange ideas. The mother tongues of the Chinese and Tamil speaking Malaysians should be fostered, nurtured and used freely. The quality of education should be raised so that every student that passes out will be useful and productive to the country.

The present educational policy provides that Bahasa Malaysia shall be the main medium of instruction. A time-table has been set to implement this. However, the snag is that there is a shortage of competent Bahasa Malaysia teachers. Crash programmes to train teachers to communicate to their pupils and students have not worked out quite so well. As a result in many schools both the teachers and pupils are at a loss, and the quality of education has fallen and suffered. Pupils should not be made to suffer because of this, and they deserve a chance to improve their studies. Therefore, while teachers are being trained to gain proficiency in Bahasa Malaysia, and this takes time, there is a case to consider stretching the time schedule to make Bahasa Malaysia the main medium of instruction.

In a rapidly shrinking world, the more languages one masters the better it will be. A second language, whether it is Mandarin, Tamil, English, French or Russian will be useful. In this country, Mandarin, Tamil and English appear to be more acceptable to the people, because both Mandarin and Tamil are mother tongues, and in the case of English because it appears to be more popular. The study of a second language needs more exposure time for a student to have a working knowledge. It is true that Bahasa Malaysia is the main medium of instruction, and a second language like English can be a medium of

instruction in, say, mathematics and science. Similarly in secondary schools, Mandarin can be the medium of instruction in the Chinese language, mathematics and science.

It is a matter of regret that the Government has not yet recognised the degrees of Malaysians who graduated from Nanyang University and other universities in Taiwan. It would be a wise policy to recognise these degrees as well as degrees from other universities in Indonesia, India and the Middle East, because of the acute shortage of skilled and talented manpower.

The recent announcement by the Minister of Education that the Government has not approved the application to set up the Merdeka College to be run on polytechnic lines, is received with misgivings by many people.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is inflation and there is recession. The economy of the country must accelerate or speed up fast enough in order to provide employment and raise living standards of the poor. This objective requires talented manpower who can think of new ways to utilise the country's natural resources. We also require skilled manpower to man the factories and work the fields, to produce cheaper consumer goods and more food. In the light of these views, it is the people's hope and wish that the Minister of Education and the special Ministerial Committee on Education will think deeply and find an equitable formula which will help to resolve the educational problems of this country.

Tuan Ngan Siong Hing (Kinta): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya minta izin untuk berucap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Campur-campur boleh?

Tuan Ngan Siong Hing: (Dengan izin) Tuan Speaker, Sir, the Budget speech by the Finance Minister on the 12th November, 1974, appeared to me to have created a gusto of confidence. Sir, while inflation, as we all know, has had tremendous impact on the majority of people in this country, especially those in the lower income group, the Finance Minister overtly played it down by blaming it on the world economic scene. To some extent, Sir, this is true, but one

cannot but ask: What meaning has the Budget speech on the low income groups, especially the workers?

Sir, it may be one thing to say that economic prosperity was enjoyed by the lower income groups, but it is another thing to ask if this is so. The fact that there has been a significant increase in motor-cars, motor-cycles, bicycles, clothings and the like, as pointed out in the speech, does not necessarily show that the masses, especially the Malay peasantry, and of course the non-Bumiputra workers, are relatively prosperous—this is far from the truth. Now this is not necessarily so as I have said, and of course, as pointed out in the Treasury Report for 1974-1975 on page 87, there has been a substantial increase in the population of this country which is estimated to reach 11.6 million in mid-1974 after growing by 2.7 per cent during the period of 1970-1975. Sir, this increase in population growth means that there are now more prospective purchasers, and with easy hire-purchase facilities, more of the above-mentioned items have become easily consumable to a larger section of the community.

But in terms of hard economic realities of the day, the people, especially those in the rural areas, have not benefited. Notwithstanding the glorious pronouncement that Malaysia is going to have an estimated surplus of some \$660 million, it means nothing if the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' keeps widening. Although Malaysia has often boasted a high per capita income of some M\$1,200, this is only, Sir, a statistical figure and, as we all know, 85 per cent of the people are poor.

The Budget speech, apart from all that has been said by Honourable Member for Seremban, makes no recommendation to boost the earning capacities of the 'have-nots' in the country. Now, according to the Treasury Report, the Chapter on 'Income Distribution' bears witness to the great inequalities that now exist in the midst of our so-called prosperity. The statistical analysis, Sir, provides a clear-cut indication of the woes, of the sickness, experienced by the workers in this country.

Of the three ethnic groups the statistical analysis shows that not only are the Malays and Indians poor, but there are also poor Chinese on a race to race basis. This shatters, Sir, the myth long sustained by the

obscurantists in the ruling party that the Chinese are rich and therefore control the economy of the country. The Treasury Report has now shattered that myth, and it shows that the people who really control the economy of this country are not the Chinese, but the foreign capitalist monopolists.

Sir, I wish to quote from page 54:

"Inequality between the races contributed to only a relatively small proportion of the total inequality of incomes in the country and does not provide a sufficient explanation for the total inequality in the levels of living in Malaysia".

It then goes on and I further quote:

"The inequality comparison between races makes the unrealistic assumption that everyone within each race has the same income, namely, the monthly mean income for that race group, whereas there are large differences in income within each race group. The comparison of mean incomes," the Report goes on, "by race can be misleading as it tends to understate the "poor" elements within each group."

Thus, it is a truism Sir, to say that poverty cuts across racial lines and it scourges every man in every race.

Whilst it is highly desirable to raise the level of Bumiputra economic participation, we wish to warn the Government that this will not necessarily bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'. What it will do, in our humble opinion, is that it will build up a new class of capitalists among the Malay rich at the expense of the Malay peasantry. Sir, in simple parlance, one can put it this way, that the poor will remain poor and the rich, richer and fatter.

The past two years were indeed difficult years as we all agree. As a result of the slow down in the industrial countries, rubber export declined, as pointed out in the Treasury Report. And with the rocketing rate of inflation many rubber tappers in the rubber estates, and kampungs, many of whom are Malays were working below capacity production. This slow down or deceleration in rubber output greatly affected, and mainly affected the ruralites and smallholders, although it is comforting to say that the loss in earnings from rubber is more than offset

by other primary export earnings like tin, palm oil, etc, but to the people whose livelihood is the rubber tree, the poor rubber prices mean privation and hunger and loss of opportunities for their children.

More than anything else, the Budget speech gives no indication that the wage structure among lower-paid workers would be revised in view of present-day economic circumstances. I really, cannot find a reason why it should not be so in view of the hardships and the sufferings experienced by the workers, some of whom earn as little as only \$2 a day in factories and some of them, if they do not work properly, might even get a sack. This sort of economic situation prevails because of the economic structure of this country which is capitalistic in nature and the Government is not determined to make it more socialistic for the benefit of the majority of the people in this country. Our system is such that it is designed to benefit less than 2% of the people in this country, that is to say, those with big capitals to invest. Sir, this is very true in view of the fact that one of the few gimmicks, or if one may say, one of the few attractions is the use of the frequent term "cheap labour" by our Ministers when they go on overseas tours to attract foreign capitalists, and monopolists to this country. The use of the term "cheap labour", Sir, is an insult to the country and a term which I think we all should, especially those on the Government side, stop using in future.

As reported, there were 68 strikes in the past nine months of this year. Sir, all of the 68 strikes were inevitably caused by employers refusing to pay special relief allowances in the midst of a spiralling cost of living. What the workers asked in the past many months, especially in the past 12 to 14 months were nothing but peanuts, in that what they wanted was a small sum, the most \$30, just to help them get along and to string along in view of the rise in commodity prices especially essential commodity items like milk, sugar and so on. But, Sir, they found it so difficult even to get that \$30 and they had to strike for months on ends, sometimes and yet get nothing; and each time when the matter is referred to the Ministry of Labour for decisions, none of the decisions thus far made seems to have been made in favour of the unions and the workers. This is another thing, Sir, to show that whatever

decisions are made, are made in such a way as to protect only the interest of the rich and to protect the interest of the employers. It is our belief that if our workers are paid little more than what they have now, life will not only become better for them but will also become better for all of us, in that all of us irrespective of our status and so on would become happier. But this is not so. Our labour laws, whatever those may be, seem to be against the workers. They can strike, of course, but there is a limit to everything and one wonders when the Government, especially the Barisan Government, will take steps to revise some of the unfair labour laws—the Industrial Relations Act, the Employment Act and so on and so forth—so that the workers in this country would have a bigger share in the national cake and a bigger stake in the so-called prosperity brought about by the Barisan Government.

For all that has been said, it shows one thing—that the workers are frustrated and the Government of the day is not very sympathetic towards them although they make nice pronouncements and say good things. Although many times the Minister of Labour and other Ministers have promised the workers the heaven on earth, but we all know that in reality they have not been given what they have asked and this I believe will not be forthcoming at least in the near future. What bold innovations are there if the workers are so struck down by all the unfavourable labour laws? I believe, and we in the D.A.P. believe, that nothing short of a minimum wage policy can be called bold, imaginative and much less dynamic. When will that minimum wage policy be brought about? I do not believe, Sir, that the Government of the day will have the courage to introduce a minimum wage policy for the benefit of the majority of workers in the country.

Sir, the economic edifice of Malaysia may be strong and not many of us doubt that. We have resources, as has been pointed out earlier on—we have rubber, tin and so on and so forth and now we have mineral oil or petrol—but if the resource base on which our economy is built is restructured lopsidedly, then the ends to be desired by the so-called New Economic Policy of the Government will also be lopsided. As I see it, poverty will remain and nothing short of

an imaginative economic revolution will save the workers from exploitation.

Sir, in closing, let us not be deceived that the Budget is one to soak the rich—in a small way it is. It is a Budget, if I may say, to suck the poor and only pin-prick the rich.

5.25 ptg.

Tuan Hishamuddin bin Haji Yahya (Maran): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, izinkan saya mengucapkan tahniah kepada Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri merangkap Menteri Kewangan di atas ucapan Belanjawannya yang dijadikan panduan dasar ekonomi negara yang aktif dan dinamik itu. Mungkin tidak keterlaluan jika saya mengatakan bahawa panduan dasar ekonomi yang berasaskan ucapan Belanjawan ini adalah panduan yang paling ideal untuk disesuaikan dengan keadaan ekonomi negara kita yang sekarang ini sedang menghadapi keadaan stagflasi.

Kita semua mengalu-alukan Kerajaan di atas kebijaksanaannya di dalam membentuk dasar ini dan kita juga berdoa semoga ianya mencapai matlamat yang dicita-citakan itu. Tetapi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, di sebalik kita mengalu-alukan dasar yang ideal dan kukuh ini adalah juga menjadi tanggungjawab kita untuk mengingatkan Kerajaan supaya menyedari serta dapat mengatasi lebih awal akan segala masalah yang akan dihadapi oleh Kerajaan di dalam melaksanakan dasar ini.

Mungkin beberapa masalah asas akan berbangkit di dalam usaha melaksanakan projek mengeluarkan lebih bahan-bahan makanan seperti buah-buahan, padi dan daging di mana tanah adalah menjadi faktor utama adalah lebih realistik daripada yang lain-lain. Masalah asas ini bukanlah masalah kita kekurangan tanah ataupun kita kekurangan pakar-pakar ataupun kekurangan tenaga pekerja, akan tetapi masalah ini ialah masalah untuk mendapatkan tanah itu sendiri. Kesulitan serta kerumitan untuk mendapatkan tanah adalah menjadi pengetahuan umum dan biasa dibangkitkan di dalam Dewan yang mulia ini. Kesulitan-kesulitan ini mungkin tidak dihadapi oleh pihak Kerajaan, jika Kerajaan sendiri hendak mendapatkan tanah untuk projek-projek tersebut, tetapi seribu satu masalah akan dihadapi oleh pihak swasta di dalam hal mendapatkan tanah ini jika pihak swasta hendak memainkan peranan mereka untuk menjayakan

projek-projek mengeluarkan barang-barang makanan ini seperti yang diserukan oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri dalam ucapan Belanjawan.

Saya penuh percaya bahawa kesulitan ini timbul bukan oleh kerana Kerajaan Negeri yang mentadbirkan hal-hal tanah tidak menggalakkan projek-projek yang digalakkan oleh Kerajaan Pusat dan dengan yang demikian enggan memberikan tanah kepada swasta, tetapi masalah pokok ialah perasaan desakan (sense of urgency) ini tidak atau belum lahir di kalangan pegawai Kerajaan sendiri. Kebenaran di atas perkara ini dapat disokong oleh pengalaman kita yang sudah-sudah dimana kita dapati bahawa sesuatu projek itu pernah gagal disebabkan oleh perasaan desakan itu tidak lahir dikalangan pegawai-pegawai Kerajaan yang kita ketahui adalah menjadi alat utama dan tempat Kerajaan meletakkan kepercayaan yang penuh bagi menolong melaksanakan hasrat Kerajaan.

Kita masih ingat, di dalam beberapa bulan yang sudah Menteri Kemajuan Tanah di dalam suatu ulusan akhbarinya secara tidak langsung memberi jaminan bahawa perkara mengenai permohonan serta tukar hakmilik tanah akan dipercepatkan lagi, tetapi hingga hari ini kita masih dapati bahawa tukar hakmilik tanah memakan masa selama 3 atau 6 bulan. Mendaftarkan gadaian memakan masa tidak kurang daripada 3 bulan. Permohonan tanah memakan masa 6 atau 7 tahun.

Di dalam hal-hal menukar hakmilik tanah dan mendaftar gadaian alasannya sentiasa diberikan oleh jabatan yang berkenaan ialah mereka kekurangan pegawai. Di dalam hal permohonan tanah pula alasannya juga sama, akan tetapi baru-baru ini pula alasan yang diberi oleh Jabatan Tanah disetengah-setengah Negeri di dalam hal permohonan tanah agak anih sedikit. Permohonan tanah tidak dapat dilayan dengan alasan Pegawai Pemeriksa Tanah tidak dapat memeriksa tanah dengan sebab Kerajaan telah membekukan elaun perbelanjaan. Tetapi jawapan paling mengeciwakan sekali yang baru-baru ini telah pula menjadi kebiasaan ialah fail berkenaan telah hilang di dalam pejabat. Jawapan-jawapan seperti ini lebih biasa di terima oleh rakyat dari kampung-kampung daripada rakyat yang mempunyai ikhtiar yang agak lebih dari bandar.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya suka menekankan di sini bahawa soal tanah adalah soal yang sangat-sangat bersangkutan-paut dengan kejayaan Kerajaan untuk menggalakkan swasta mengambil peranan yang aktif di dalam usaha mengeluarkan barang-barang makanan yang lebih, kerana tanah adalah digunakan sebagai asset utama untuk cagaran kepada pinjaman memodali sebarang projek.

'Tuan Yang di-Pertua, masalah berkaitan dengan pentadbiran tanah ini bukanlah satu perkara baru bahkan ianya ialah suatu masalah lama, lebih lama daripada kelahiran Dewan ini sehinggalah kita semua telah jemu mendengarnya. Berkali-kali Parlimen bersidang maka berkali-kali pula masalah tanah dibangkitkan. Kian lama perkara ini dibangkitkan dan diungkitkan maka kian lama pula pihak Kerajaan tidak berjaya mengambil langkah yang positif mengenainya. Saya percaya bahawa rakyat diseluruh negara ini bersedia memberikan mandat kepada Kerajaan untuk membelanjakan walaupun berpuluh juta ringgit untuk menyusun semula serta membuat peraturan baru mengenai pentadbiran tanah demi kepentingan rakyat seluruhnya. Jika Kerajaan dapat mengatasi masalah ini maka Kerajaan telah berjaya mengatasi 50% daripada kesulitan rakyat di negara kita. Saya menyeru Kerajaan mengambil tindakan yang serious dalam perkara ini kerana jika tidak, saya takut maka rakyat pula akan mengatakan kepada Kerajaan supaya mempunyai semangat drive, imagination dan urgency seperti yang diperkatakan di dalam Ucapan Belanjawan tersebut.

Apa yang kita harus tekankan di sini ialah Kerajaan hendaklah mengambil suatu tindakan yang positif dan mengaturkan suatu program yang comprehensive serta realistik untuk memasukkan perasaan desakan ditia-tiap orang pegawai Kerajaan yang menjadi alat utama menolong menjayakan hasrat Kerajaan itu, khasnya pegawai-pegawai di Pejabat Tanah. Inilah merupakan satu jaminan bagi kita untuk menjayakan hasrat Kerajaan itu. Kursus-kursus sivik sahaja tidak mencukupi jika ianya tidak pula dituruti dengan tindakan disiplin yang wajar di atas pegawai-pegawai yang tidak menjalankan tugas dengan sempurna.

Perkara yang kedua ialah masalah modal. Kita haruslah mengambil perhatian berat di dalam perkara ini walaupun kita

menghadapi keadaan darurat ekonomi (economic emergency) dan program yang digariskan di dalam Ucapan Belanjawan itu hendaklah dilaksanakan dengan seberapa cepat yang boleh. Kita tidak seharusnya melupakan tujuan asal dasar ekonomi untuk menggalakkan bumiputra memasuki lapangan perniagaan. Peniaga-peniaga kecil bumiputra hari ini mendapati sukar sekali untuk mendapatkan modal disebabkan diskriminasi yang dipraktikkan oleh bank-bank di negara ini. Dari jumlah 35 buah bank di negara ini cuma 3 buah bank sahaja yang memberi layanan yang baik kepada pinjaman peniaga kecil bumiputra. Peniaga-peniaga yang bukan bumiputra tidak menghadapi masalah ini dan di samping itu mereka juga menikmati keistimewaan kemudahan yang diberi oleh Credit Guarantee Corporation kepada peniaga-peniaga kecil. Tidak hairanlah maka di dalam tahun 1974 sahaja dari jumlah pinjaman peniaga-peniaga kecil yang berjumlah lebih daripada \$118 juta itu cuma lebih \$46 juta sahaja atau 39% sahaja adalah pinjaman peniaga-peniaga kecil bumiputra. Keadaan ini menghendakkan kajian semula dan tindakan positif hendaklah diambil untuk menjaga kepentingan kaum bumiputra.

Selain daripada mengambil tindakan di dalam dua perkara ini Kerajaan seharusnya juga melahirkan dikalangan rakyat di negara ini suatu perasaan darurat ekonomi supaya dengan perasaan ini mereka lebih bersedia serta menerima cabaran-cabaran dimasa hadapan. Alat-alat sebaran am terutamanya radio dan talivisyen bolehlah memainkan peranan ini dengan giat dan berkesan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, setelah meneliti Economic Report 1974/75 maka kita dapati bahawa perusahaan getah dan kayu amatlah terdedah kepada pengaruh ekonomi di luar negeri. Misalnya, eksport getah telah jatuh sebanyak 1.5% dari angka eksport tahun 1973 dan ini ialah disebabkan kemerosotan perusahaan motokar di United States. Kekurangan pembelian ini juga telah mengakibatkan kejatuhan harga getah, demikian juga keadaannya dengan perusahaan kayu. Mengikut report tersebut kemerosotan eksport sebanyak 5% bagi sawlogs dan 8% bagi sawn timber adalah disebabkan kemerosotan perusahaan bangunan di negara pembeli-pembeli yang terbesar iaitu negara-negara EEC, Australia dan Jepun. Juga

pertukaran kehendak jenis-jenis kayu di Eropah Barat telah menyebabkan kemerosotan eksport kayu di negara ini, akibatnya di Sabah dan juga di Semenanjung Malaysia 19,000 orang pekerja terpaksa diberhentikan. Keadaan ini amatlah mendukacitakan kita kerana bukan sahaja pemberhentian pekerja-pekerja itu akan menyusahkan keluarga mereka, akan tetapi majikan juga terpaksa menutup perniagaan mereka kerana tidak dapat membayar balik pinjaman kepada institusi pinjaman mereka. Kerajaan pula tidak kurang merasakan kerugian di dalam hal ini.

Apa yang mendukacitakan kita bukanlah kerana eksport kita telah merosot disebabkan oleh kemerosotan ekonomi negara-negara yang membeli kerana ini sentiasa menjadi penderitaan negara-negara yang sentiasa bergantung kepada pengeluaran bahan-bahan mentah, tetapi apa yang mengecewakan kita ialah kita tidak mempunyai sistem check and balances di dalam hal pengeluaran barang-barang mentah kita sendiri untuk mengimbangkan pengeluaran dengan kehendak-kehendak pembeli untuk menjaga kesetabilan harga. Dengan hal yang demikian, pengeluaran kita tidak diawasi dan akibatnya ialah apabila sahaja ada pertukaran di dalam corak pemilihan pembeli dari luar negeri, maka kita akan menerimanya dengan keadaan terperanjat dan tidak bersiap sedia untuk mengubahsuaikan dengan pertukaran keadaan itu. Perusahaan kayu adalah menjadi contoh utama di dalam hal ini.

Untuk mengatasi perkara seperti ini berlaku pada masa-masa yang akan datang, saya merayu supaya Kerajaan menubuhkan Yunit Perisik Perdagangan (Commercial Intelligence) yang effective yang akan ditugaskan membuat penyelidikan disepanjang tahun supaya kita boleh membuat ramalan-ramalan ekonomi negara yang ada hubungannya dengan negara kita supaya kita boleh bersiap sedia untuk mengubahsuaikan dasar ekonomi kita dengan sebarang pertukaran yang akan berlaku. Dengan jalan ini kita bukan sahaja dapat mengesan apakah akibat perubahan itu kepada ekonomi negara kita sendiri, akan tetapi ia juga memberi kita kesempatan yang cukup untuk kita bersiap sedia mengubahsuaikan aktiviti ekonomi kita mengikut sebarang perubahan corak di luar negeri. Dan dengan demikian

kita berharap akan dapat mengelakkan ke- lumpuhan di sesuatu sektor ekonomi kita yang semata-mata bergantung kepada pem- beli di luar negeri.

5.42 *ptg.*

Tuan Au How Cheong (Telok Anson):

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, disamping saya bercakap dalam Bahasa Malaysia, saya minta izin berucap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun menyokong usul yang dikemukakan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Kewangan. Negara kita telah mendengar Ucapan Belanjawan pertama dari Yang Berhormat Menteri Kewangan pada 12hb November, 1974 dan saya berpendapat Belanjawan itu telah mengelakkan kebimbangan yang pada mula- nya dijangka oleh orang ramai.

Belanjawan ini merupakan satu Belan- jawan yang dinamik serta realistik yang tidak terlalu menyusahkan golongan-golo- ngan miskin. Pada masa yang akan datang rakyat akan menghadapi dan mengalami kerumitan-kerumitan dan kesukaran-kesu- karan dan setiap rakyat harus memainkan peranan supaya mengurangkan impact inflasi.

Stagflasi telah dialami oleh rakyat di negara lain yang lebih progresif. The com- bination of recession and inflation is indeed a rare phenomenon. Kami adalah lebih bernasib baik kerana dalam negara kami terdapat tempat-tempat yang lapang yang subur dan boleh menghasilkan makanan. Dengan demikian saya yakin kami akan dapat mengatasi stagflasi ini dengan secara minima.

(*Dengan izin*) Tuan Yang di-Pertua, it is no small feat for the Government to achieve a surplus in the Budget in a time of stag- flation. The Minister of Finance urged the private sector to take up the challenge to go into the food production industry as a way to combat stagflation.

In this respect, I appeal to the Govern- ment not only to make land easily available to the genuine developers but also to identify the area, size of the land available, suita- bility for any particular type of crop and, where necessary, to provide a major road or drainage system to the land. The Govern- ment should then make prominent announcements to the public on the availa-

bility of such land for any particular purpose. I have yet to hear that any land have not been taken up by anyone. The only strange news that I read in the *Straits Times* a few days ago is about the 6,000 acres of padi land in the Endau area in the State of Johore which has no taker.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, I suggest the con- struction of roads and drains to land schemes where necessary because in Teluk Anson we have the experience of 336 acres of land being given to the people of Kampung Dua- belas in 1962, but for 12 years the people could not cultivate the land as the area was under water. Survey to drain the area has just started this month and I sincerely hope the work to drain the area can actually begin early next year.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, I am very glad to read that the Budget is not just a plan on paper but will continue to actually implement the objectives of the Second Malaysia Plan. For I was most worried when I read Page 6, Paragraph 14 of Kertas Perintah 22—the Treasury Statement on Federal Expenditure Budget for 1975—where no mention whatso- ever was made about the Teluk Anson-Lumut Road, although it was provided under Para- graph 596, Table 12 (4) on Page 191 of the Second Malaysia Plan. In it, \$6.8 million had been allotted for the project which in- cludes the construction of a bridge crossing Perak River and another bridge crossing Sungei Bidor. I appeal to the Government to implement this project in 1975. The construc- tion of this major highway will encourage the development of many linking or side roads in the constituency.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, according to the same Command Paper, Lampiran "B", for 1975 a sum of \$533 million is set aside to the Ministry of Transport. Compared with 1974, there is an increase of \$153 million.

For the development of ports, there is an increase of \$47 million. It will therefore appear that there would be sufficient funds for the Government to consider development of the Teluk Anson wharf into a subsidiary port, if not a major port. If it is not suitable to construct a port in Teluk Anson, I propose the port be built at Bagan Datok.

To mention the oil palm industry alone, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, production of palm oil is in the region of 5,000 tons a month, coming from about 50,000 acres of fruit-bearing

estates. The matured holdings are increasing each year. At the moment, all the oil from the Teluk Anson district is sent out through or stored at either Penang or Port Kelang, a distance of some 200 miles away. It is only natural, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, that we should send our products through our own wharves and we could do so only if the Government would assist us to develop our wharf into a port.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, on Page 2 of Command Paper 22, there is an allocation of \$418.5 million for rural development and \$80.6 million for grants and loans to the States. Between these two sums, I fervently hope the Government will assist Teluk Anson to purchase suitable land for the development of a new town, for Teluk Anson is in the unique position of being the only sinking town in the whole country. We have been living with the problems of erosion and floods for many, many years. The cost of saving the town is so enormous that we have to consider building a new township. Much as the Local Authority would like to carry out a project of such magnitude, their resources are limited. For these reasons, I appeal for a suitable grant for us to carry out the proposed project.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, the biggest single estimate for 1975 in the Budget is for Education. It is because the Government recognises the importance of education as a contributing factor affecting the ability of an individual to enhance the quality of his life and to advance his economic position. We should, therefore, consider to inculcate into the minds of the young the habit of learning at a tender age. With this in mind, I appeal to the Government to consider providing more kindergarten classes in the rural areas, perhaps to even make kindergarten classes as part of our education system.

Education must serve to promote national unity or help to create united citizens. To achieve unity, there must be goodwill and understanding. It is, therefore, worthy of consideration for the interested students to learn each other's languages in schools while vigorously pursuing the study of Bahasa Malaysia. For those who choose to study their own mother tongues, I hope the Government would continue to provide adequate facilities for them to do so in the national

system of education and for them to reach an acceptable standard of proficiency in these languages.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, the existing institutions of higher learning offer many courses of study to our young citizens. But most, if not all, of these courses of study to our young citizens. But most, if not all, of these courses require some sort of minimum qualification for enrolment. I urge the Government to consider setting up polytechnic types of vocational schools to train our citizens who possess no acceptable qualifications into labour, such as carpenters, masons, plumbers, welders, fitters or car repairers. Thousands of our less fortunate citizens like the drop-outs are deprived of a chance to make a living simply because of lack of education. Only the other day, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, the House had approved a sum of money for the Ministry of Social Welfare for the construction of a Remand Home in Sabah. It is most disconcerting, if not alarming, that it has become necessary to approve a development expenditure of this nature, as it means there are many "problem" children in our country. Nobody would choose to rob, steal or cheat. It is because of lack of employment that leads a person to join bad company or go astray. Tuan Yang di-Pertua, it is therefore far better putting up institutions of this nature to give these people a chance to learn a skill than to let them become juvenile delinquents and then try correct them.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, on page 2, paragraph 4 of Command Paper 22, the Government has allotted an additional sum of \$1,065.5 million for 1975 for Operating Expenditure. This means, among other things, that Government servants are getting more pay, if they are not adequately paid. They should, therefore, provide a better, quicker and more efficient service to the people. Just like the Honourable Prime Minister calling upon "the Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament to work hard or else," I take this opportunity to call upon all the Heads of Departments and their *kakitangan* to make extra efforts to serve the people, so as to enhance the success of the policies of the Government.

Tuan Leo Moggie (Kanowit): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya ingin berucap sedikit tentang

Rang Undang-undang dan Usul yang dicadangkan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri pada minggu yang lepas. Dengan ini juga saya minta izin untuk berucap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

(*Dengan izin*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I would first touch on the 1975 Supply Bill. The international economic outlook for 1975 is certainly fraught with uncertainties. 18% of Malaysian exports go to Japan and the Japanese economy is now experiencing its lowest growth rate since the Pacific War. The forecasts for the European Common Market is for a 3.5% growth rate in 1975. 22% of Malaysian exports go to these countries. In the United States, though inflation is starting to recede, the recession is likely to worsen. The University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Finance, which has been known to give most realistic forecasts, gave the conclusion that the U.S. economy may begin to recover only, at the earliest, at the very end of 1975. In the meantime, unemployment has reached 6% and threatens to go up further and faster. Production and productivity are both down.

These forecasts from international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, underline the perils of accepting definite predictions under current conditions. They are just not on! All these forecasts, however, agree on one thing: a world-wide recession is now with us and is expected to last for some time. There will definitely be a time lag before world economies pick up once again.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Malaysia living in an interdependent world cannot isolate herself from these global trends. Malaysian export earnings and economic growth have tended to follow shortly on recessions in the industrialised countries. It must, therefore, be anticipated that similar trends will occur for 1975 and 1976. We will have to anticipate a continuing economic slowdown leading to a deepening recession in 1975. At the same time prices will remain high, though the Treasury's Economic Report predicts that the rate of growth may be expected to decline. We are, nevertheless, experiencing declining commodity prices. We are experiencing decreases in production. We are experiencing some labour retrenchment especially in the electronics industry and in the timber indus-

try. We are still experiencing price rises in certain consumer items. Certainly we can take heart, Sir—

- (a) that our foreign reserves remain at a healthy level;
- (b) that we still enjoy a high international credit rating; and
- (c) that we have off-shore oil strikes.

These are real and substantial supports. But for all these, Mr Speaker, Sir, the prospect is still bleak and our economic future remains uncertain. It is correct that no attempt should be made to gloss over this uncertainty. We cannot afford to be lulled into a false complacency. An inflationary rate of 18% for a country such as ours supported by vast natural resources cast doubts on the rigorousness of our financial management.

What are the Government's prescriptions? Essentially we are offered the traditional approach of countering the threat of recession by a stepped-up public spending, the stock antidote from a capitalist system. The operating budget is being increased, though on examination the increase is to meet salary revisions rather than economic strategy. The development budget is being increased to twice the dollar value spent in 1973. All these extra money will stimulate demand. The question, Sir, is: What will the stepping up of public expenditure do to the balance of trade and the balance of payments? How will the recent U.S. initiative to bring about lower oil prices affect our oil revenues, the very item which was critical in providing a current account surplus this year? In this respect, Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is appropriate for me to suggest, if it has not already been done so, that the Government attempt to find alternative markets for our commodities. Have the Chinese market, for instance, been sufficiently tapped for our rubber and our timber? With their vast population they would seem to me to be one of the venues for our items.

And what will this increased public spending do to inflation? Basic goods that are processed from foreign raw materials are still pushing food price index upwards, and food items, Mr Speaker, Sir, constitute more than 70% of the consumption expenditure of the lower income groups in this country.

In the last few days we have read reports of rises in the price of milk powder by 40 cents a pound and flour by 10 cents. The consumer price index for December will show these rises and this might drastically alter the Treasury predictions that the rate of inflation will slow down in the last part of this year. Our anti-recession policy would exert an upward push in prices, and I think we will be indulging in wishful thinking if we expect the inflation rate next year to fall below the present 18%. If some figures of distribution were calculated, the burden of this, Sir, will fall on those who can least afford it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is budgeting for a surplus of about \$280 million in its Current Account before the addition from new tax measures. Hopefully, this forecast is realistic because in view of the fall in commodity prices, it is difficult to see how the proposed increase in expenditure can be met through revenue growth.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the size of the increase both in the Operating Expenditure and Development Expenditure must have been taken by many as a hint for much harsher tax measures than what finally emerged from the Minister's brief case. In view of the possibility that the Treasury's prediction on our inflation rate may be off the mark, a good case can be made for a much higher excess profit tax instead of the chosen 5%. The Government should not maintain a continuing policy of pleasing the rich when it is obvious, Sir, that they are in a position to contribute what they have enjoyed untrammelled in the past. On the other hand, it ought to have some effect on dampening demand.

Similarly, in order to encourage savings, interest rates earned on deposit accounts with the National Savings Bank and Commercial banks ought to have been exempted from tax. Bonus issues ought not to have been restricted to two months and there is a good case for the abolition of the Sales Tax as this tax usually fall hardest on those who are in the lower income group.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that the guiding principle of the tax measures has been to resist the temptation of transferring investment funds from the private and the rich to the public sector, and instead the Government has chosen to accept deficit

financing to be met both from local as well as foreign borrowings. I think it is in order to caution the Government that this has to be treated as a temporary basis, if the intention of providing economic growth with basis financial stability is to be sustained. The additional investment funds so provided have to be spent prudently. As a matter of policy, Government's development expenditure will have to be directed to increase the availability and stabilise the prices of essential goods particularly those consumed by the lower income groups. These funds must be channelled towards projects which are immediately implementable.

The fundamental focus of the Government's combat against inflation centres on food production and 500,000 acres of land is earmarked for this. Unfortunately, Sir, what with our difficulties of obtaining fertilisers and what with our difficulties of obtaining good land, this is not one that is easily implemented and I think it would be quite unrealistic for us to accept the possibility that we will be able to implement this.

As a matter of policy also, deficit financing should have been balanced with the need to maintain foreign exchange reserves to ensure continuing confidence in the present high standing of the Malaysian ringgit as well as our capacity to obtain even greater foreign financing to accelerate the pace of longer term economic growth and income distribution. Instead, we are offered a high debt-financing ration that might undermine our long-term borrowing ability. It is necessary therefore that the Government maintain a rigorous, continuing and close monitoring of short-term trends so that timely responses can be executed. The Government will also have to keep a close watch on the implementation agencies of Government to ensure that these will maintain prudent expenditure practices. In the past, as have been quoted by my colleagues the Member of Kepong and the Member of Seremban, there have been examples of tendencies on the part of Government agencies to concentrate on building white elephants. In the novel and trying economic conditions of today there is, of course, no cut and dried solution and the dilemma with which the Minister of Finance is faced is understandable, but, Sir, his Budget has focussed mainly on maintaining the position of the rich with inadequate

attention to the plight of the poor. On balance, the Budget is prepared by the rich, for the rich, to benefit the rich.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me now to deal with some answers which have been given to some of the points I raised in the course of the debate on the Royal Address. The Honourable Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and the Honourable Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines have attempted to answer some of those points. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Deputy Minister chose to put a wedge in my statement by using the word "Iban". The Iban is only one group of non-Malay Bumiputras in Sarawak. I am referring to all the non-Malay Bumiputras collectively covered by the term "Dayak", which includes the Kayans, the Kenyahs, Land Dayaks, Kelabit, Iban, etc. The S.N.A.P. is a multi-racial party and I hope that the Honourable Deputy Minister is not actually attempting to isolate the Ibans not only from the mainstream of Malaysian national aspiration but also from the other non-Malay Bumiputra groups in Sarawak. I should like to repeat that it is my considered view that in the implementation of the New Economic Policy the interest of the non-Malay Bumiputras in Sarawak have not been sufficiently considered. The Dayaks together with the other underprivileged groups must be accorded the attention as clearly stated in the New Economic Policy. The shift in development implementation must be towards the rural areas.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Yang Berhormat Timbalan Menteri Tanah dan Galian dalam ucapan beliau berkata, tuduhan-tuduhan saya ini tidak berasas, akan tetapi purely for political gambit. He mentioned a few figures as proof of this. Mr Speaker, Sir, unfortunately he did not think it necessary to provide a time reference for the statistics he quoted. Neither did he think it necessary to compare the figures with the ratio of population breakdown. The various development schemes mentioned by the Yang Berhormat were implemented way before the time of the Sarawak Coalition Government. Assuming his scholarship figures are correct, they provide an average ratio of 1:2 for Malay to non-Malay Bumiputras. The population breakdown would have required a ratio of at least 1:2.6. The Sarawak Economic Development Corporation's loan

statistics that he quoted omit the value of the loans as well as the time reference. Most of the rural loans were for periods before 1970. The S.E.D.C. has, in fact, discontinued this type of loan scheme since 1973. The question that needs to be asked is: Why was it necessary to discontinue this scheme?

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are too familiar with the uses and the abuses to which statistics have been subjected to. Those quoted by the Honourable Deputy Minister were drawn up purposely to masquerade the truth, but they turned out as mere half-truths. The S.E.D.C. is to be the vanguard for the implementation of the New Economic Policy. Why are not statistics given for Dayak participation in the various operations of S.E.D.C. and other agencies charged with the implementation? For example, out of a total staffing of the S.E.D.C. of 67 as of October this year, 35 of them are Malays, constituting 52%; 7 are Dayaks, approximately 10%. In the Sarawak Motor Industries (Sendirian) Berhad, which is a subsidiary of S.E.D.C., out of a total staffing of 109, there are 78 Malays, making an approximate percentage of 71%, Dayaks 8, approximately 7.9%. Might not these statistics, were they provided, project a discomfoting caveat to the pretension that the Government has been fair in implementing that policy?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must continue to disappoint the Honourable Deputy Minister for preferring to keep harping at these issues, and I will continue to do so until they are corrected. At a personal level, I certainly have been accorded reasonable privileges, and it is somewhat unfortunate that the Honourable Deputy Minister has suggested that I should therefore blind myself to the conditions of those who are not so lucky.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is my privilege to offer my congratulations to the Deputy Minister on his appointment to that important post. I am sure that that appointment was not intended, and I trust that he will not regard it as a licence, to ignore the plight of others who are less fortunate than himself.

Tuan Shaari bin Jusoh (Kangar): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun menyokong Rang Undang-undang Perbekalan, 1975 yang dikemukakan oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri yang juga sebagai Menteri Kewangan kita. Kita sama-sama maklum di dalam ucapan

Menteri Kewangan pada 12hb yang lepas yang mana ucapannya amatlah menasabah bagi rakyat Malaysia tentang cukai-cukai yang telah ditetapkannya. Sebelum daripada itu kita biasa mendengar khabar-khabar angin ataupun khabar-khabar yang tidak bertanggungjawab mengatakan ada beberapa barang yang akan dinaikkan dan ada barang yang tidak akan dinaikkan, sebagaimana kita biasa dengar di masa-masa yang lepas. Akan tetapi, kita bersyukur ke hadrat Ilahi apa yang dikatakan rahsia itu tetap rahsia yang sebenarnya, apa yang diteka oleh setengah golongan itu pada kali ini tidak benar sama sekali, maka bagi kali yang pertama, saya mengucapkan syabas kepada Menteri Kewangan yang mana segala apa yang dibentangkan pada 12 haribulan itu tidak dapat diketahui sebelum daripada tarikh yang ditentukan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, di dalam kenaikan cukai ini, bagi pihak saya sendiri dan saya yakin bagi orang yang bertimbang rasa dan dikaji disegenap segi sebagaimana saya katakan tadi peruntukan ataupun kenaikan cukai dan sebagainya pada tahun 1975 amatlah menasabah dan boleh dikatakan kepada golongan-golongan susah tidak ada langsung cukai yang dikenakan kepada mereka itu. Walau macam manapun, ada cukai-cukai yang saya suka tambahkan lagi, dan ada cukai saya berharap dikurangkan lagi.

Di dalam ucapan Menteri Kewangan yang mana saya tertarik hati di dalam Dewan ini yang saya biasa bercakap tentang susu tepung seperti Dumex dan sebagainya. Mengikut kata Menteri yang berkenaan di dalam ucapannya kita tidak mengenakan cukai secara tidak langsung, tetapi kita berikan subsidi ataupun bantuan. Walaupun begitu, saya berharap sangat kalau boleh, sebagaimana Kerajaan hari ini memberi subsidi baja dan sebagainya, kepada tepung ini saya merayu sangat-sangat kerana saya dapat tahu dan biasa saya katakan di dalam Dewan ini seorang orang yang baru bersalin, kanak-kanak kecil itu sangatlah berhajat kepada susu yang tersebut. Walaupun benda lain kita patut naikkan, tetapi kepada benda yang tersebut seboleh-bolehnya saya berharap kepada Kementerian ataupun Kerajaan memberi subsidi sekurang-kurangnya setengah harga.

Di dalam barang-barang lain, saya berpendapat walaupun cukai rokok, misalnya,

telah dinaikkan oleh Kerajaan, patut dinaikkan lagi, sebab rokok ini satu, satu benda yang dihajajtkan oleh manusia. Kalau tidak silap saya, kalau mengikut dari segi agama adalah makruh dan biasa juga dikatakan oleh doktor, menghisap rokok terlampau banyak badan harus menjadi penyakit. Saya sendiri adalah salah seorang penghisap rokok yang tidak kurang daripada 40 batang sehari.

Tetapi sebagaimana saya katakan tadi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, rokok ini bukanlah satu benda yang haram, cuma makruh pada segi agama, kalau tidak silap saya, pada segi kesihatan tidak begitu baik, tetapi ada orang yang menghisap termasuk saya. Jadi biarlah kita mengenakan cukai yang lebih besar lagi walaupun kepada saya sendiri saya rela, moga-moga saya berharap dengan cukai yang banyak itu saya boleh mengurangkan sedikit menghisap rokok dan kalau saya menghisap juga bererti saya menderma kepada negara saya sendiri.

Bagitu juga tentang cukai-cukai yang lain seperti minuman keras. Biasa dicampak oleh setengah Ahli-ahli Dewan, kalau hendak pandang dari segi agama haram terus. Allah berfirman: Alhamru wal maisir—ertinya arak dan judi itu haram.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Tolong terjemahkan ke Bahasa Malaysia, sebab dalam Dewan ini menggunakan Bahasa Kebangsaan.

Tuan Shaari bin Jusoh: Minta maaf, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bercakap Bahasa Kebangsaan, tetapi saya tersebut ayat Quran. Arak dan judi itu haram, tetapi saya tidak menyuruh Kerajaan manahan daripada mengutip cukai arak dan judi, kerana cukai arak dan judi ini pun satu hasil yang kita dapat kutip dalam negara kita. Kalau kita tahan juga pun, saya percaya secara sulit-sulit dibuat juga oleh golongan yang terpaksa minum arak dan main judi. Walau macammanapun, saya berharap kalau boleh, Kerajaan menaikkan lagi cukai yang lebih daripada yang ada pada hari ini.

Bagitu juga perabut-perabut di rumah. Saya sangat sedih yang suri-suri rumahtangga pada hari ini, dan izinkanlah saya berkata berterus-terang, termasuk isteri saya sendiri mengadakan Kumpulan Tupperware yang dijual satu set \$40-\$50. Adat manusia ini adalah satu tabiat suka berkumpul dan suka

meniru. Kalau dia tengok satu golongan orang lain buat dia terpaksa hendak buat juga. Saya minta maaf, kerana saya bercakap terus-terang terhadap orang perempuan. Alat perhiasan adalah satu kemegahan bagi tiap-tiap orang perempuan kecuali ada suatu golongan yang tidak berfikiran begitu. Walaupun benda ini saya sendiri berpendapat tidak mustahak, tetapi saya tidak sanggup melawan kehendak alam dan kehendak perempuan termasuk perempuan saya sendiri. Jadi dengan sebab itu, saya berpendapat perkara-perkara yang begini Kerajaan patut cukai sehingga 25% daripada harga barang yang saya katakan itu. Kalau perempuan saya sendiri pun terpaksa saya membeli, walaupun saya pandang membazir, tetapi biarlah pada hakikatnya sebagai saya mengorbankan kepada negara saya sendiri.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, menyentuh soal agama Islam sebagai agama rasmi yang kita sangat sanjung tinggi dan saya dalam Dewan yang mulia ini mengucapkan tahniah kepada pihak yang mana pun saya tidak tahu, tetapi satu ketika saya masih ingat, saya bercakap dalam Dewan Parlimen, tetapi bukanlah di Dewan Rakyat ini—di Dewan Negara (Senate) masa itu. Saya biasa berkata, minuman arak itu haram, tetapi apakan daya saya hendak tahan, tetapi biarlah minum di masa yang bukan dalam Majlis Rasmi dan sebagainya. Saya bersyukur kepada Tuhan bahawa pada akhir-akhir ini dalam Dewan kita yang mulia ini tidak pernah saya tengok minuman yang macam itu. Saya mengucapkan syabas kepada pihak yang menahan kepada minuman yang tersebut, tetapi walau macammanapun, saya tidak mahu menyebutkan pejabat itu, biarlah secara umum saya bercakap; minuman arak ini selain daripada haram dan tiap-tiap yang diharamkan oleh Tuhan mudaratnya banyak daripada kebaikan. Ada kedapatan di dalam pejabat-pejabat yang di masa bertugas masih meminum arak dan kadang-kadang pejabat-pejabat yang berkenaan membawa kebaikan ataupun menjaga kesihatan rakyat. Dengan sebab itu, saya berharap; saya hendak larang terus bukan kuasa saya, tetapi saya berharap biarlah di masa bertugas, biar pun dalam Dewan ataupun di dalam pejabat-pejabat, patutlah pihak Kerajaan mengambil berat dengan seberat-beratnya di atas perkara tersebut.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sebelum saya menyentuh perkara yang lain, saya hendak

tunjukkan gambar yang mana gambar Tuan Yang di-Pertua pun ada.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Tolong sebutkan nama suratkhobar itu Ahli Yang Berhormat.

Tuan Shaari bin Jusoh: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, dengan penuh bangga dan besarhati saya ucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada hamba Allah yang saya tidak kenal—oleh Adam Abdul Hamid, yang mengeluarkan dalam *Utusan Melayu* pada hari kelmarin. Saya gunting dan bawa ke dalam Dewan ini. Mengapakah akhbar ini saya bawa ke dalam Dewan ini Tuan Yang di-Pertua? Minta maaf kerana gambar Tuan Yang di-Pertua pun ada. Mengikuti kata dalam akhbar ini, penggunaan Bahasa Malaysia dalam Dewan Rakyat; apa yang dikatakan oleh pengarang ataupun penulis akhbar itu yang saya ambil keratan ini bahawa amatlah tepat dan kena pada tempatnya. Katanya:

“Bilakah lagi Dewan Rakyat akan menggunakan Bahasa Malaysia yang sepenuhnya yang mana Bahasa Malaysia menjadi Bahasa Kebangsaan dalam tanah-air kita?”

“Sebagai satu bukti yang nyata,” kata akhbar ini—saya sokong 100%—“adalah anih dan ajaib, kalaulah yang hendak bercakap itu tidak pandai Bahasa Kebangsaan, itu dia tidak hairan, tetapi pelik, ada di antara Ahli Dewan yang disebutkan di dalam suratkhobar ini”—saya tidak hendak bacakan, kerana terlampau panjang, mula-mula dia bangun bercakap.

Dia kata: “Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya hendak minta izin bercakap dalam bahasa Inggeris”.

Jawab Tuan Yang di-Pertua: “Cuba-cuba dahulu, tuan sudah fasih”.

Dia kata: “Thank you”, terus bercakap dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Dan katanya juga, “Kalaulah Ahli-ahli Dewan ini tidak bercakap dalam bahasa Melayu, bagaimanakah pula jikalau soal-jawabnya yang kadang-kadang dibelitnya Menteri dengan Bahasa Kebangsaan dan Menteri pun kadang-kadang susah hendak menjawabnya soalan tambahannya”.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kalaulah ucapan itu secara bertulis tentulah tidak payah memikirkan. Kita baca apa yang ada di atas meja, tetapi kalau ucapan yang cara berfikir, tentulah dia datang daripada mulut kita yang

pitah bercakap. Kalau cara bersoal jawab dia boleh berputar belit, kata akhbar di sini, sehingga dia puji—saya tidak mahu sebutkan nama pihak yang bercakap, ada di antara Ahli Dewan yang tidak mahu bercakap dalam Bahasa Kebangsaan ini, katanya lebih pitah daripada Timbalan Menteri Kewangan. Saya ucapkan syabas kepada Timbalan Menteri Kewangan yang telah bercakap dalam Bahasa Kebangsaan. Saya sanjung tinggi terhadap pemberita-pemberita yang saya yakin mereka ini bukanlah sahaja datang ke sini untuk mencatatkan apa yang kita bercakap, tetapi sebagai warganegara yang taat-setia mereka juga sedih kalau ada golongan-golongan yang tidak memandang berat di atas apa yang dicontohkan ataupun apa yang termaktub dalam Perlembagaan kita.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya juga sabitkan akhbar yang saya bawa ini bertarikh 14hb November, 1974, bahawa agama Islam adalah agama rasmi sebagaimana saya katakan tadi, tetapi malangnya kalaulah sekolah agama, baikpun berbahasa Arab ataupun bahasa Melayu, jarang orang-orang akan menghantarkan anaknya ke situ walaupun dia mengakui yang agama Islam adalah agama yang suci, agama yang baik.

Kerap kali kalaulah sekolah-sekolah agama yang akan menyambung di peringkat menengahnya maka murid-murid yang akan pergi ke situ ialah murid-murid yang terlepas ke sekolah menengah kebangsaan, ataupun sekolah menengah yang baik-baik. Bila sudah tidak ada tempat lain, maka ke situ lah tempatnya yang ia tumpu untuk menghabiskan masa yang muda, tidak patut mendapat pekerjaan lagi ataupun tidak boleh bekerja lagi. Sebab apa, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, yang menjadi begitu? Mengikut pendapat saya, tiap-tiap seorang manusia tadi ia berkehendakkan hidup yang lumayan, hidup yang senang-lenang dan tiap-tiap hidup yang senang-lenang tadi salah satu daripadanya sebabnya ialah wangnya ada. Biasa dikatakan oleh setengah orang, kalau ada wang, semua kerja jadi. Biasa dikatakan orang juga: Wang itu seolah-olah sebagai raja kepada manusia ataupun raja Nombor 2. Oleh sebab belanja di sekolah agama ini gajinya murah maka jaranglah orang tertarik. Sebagai satu contoh, saya tengok di sini, hal agama adalah hal Negeri masing-masing, tetapi sebagai kita juga, Kerajaan kita yang menubuhkan Jaba-

tan Agama yang boleh mengesimbangkan atau boleh mententeramkan kedudukan Negeri-negeri yang tersebut, saya berharap akan mendapat perhatian yang berat.

Salah satu berita yang saya tengok di dalam suratkhbar yang dikeluarkan pada 14-11-74 ialah tentang tuntutan gaji pegawai-pegawai agama. Ini di Negeri Perak. Tetapi setakat yang saya dapat tahu tuntutan ini bukan sahaja di Negeri Perak bahkan di merata-rata Negeri dalam Semenanjung Malaysia dan kalau tidak salah saya termasuklah Negeri tempat saya tinggal iaitu Negeri Perlis. Pegawai-pegawai agama yang menuntut gaji di sini ialah sebagai Nazir ataupun pegawai-pegawai agama yang dapat special grade, yang gaji mereka ini katanya telah dapat dimulakan \$900 lebih, ada setengahnya \$880 ke atas. Mereka sudah menuntut bertalu-talu. Janji akan diberikan dan ada siaran khas yang dikeluarkan untuk mereka ini dapat mereka mendakwa di sini, saya tidak dengki, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, dan saya tidak berkata saya tidak puashati kepada gaji guru-guru yang lain. Saya tidak suka ada dalam perasaan diri saya kalau orang yang dapat gaji lebih saya tidak suka, saya suka. Saya sediakala merayu siapa yang hendak dapat gaji lebih dapatlah, baik guru agama ataupun guru sekolah kebangsaan, ataupun sekolah mana pun, tetapi yang saya sedih sebab yang saya simpati sebagaimana kata akhbar ini mereka yang bermula dengan gaji \$910-\$1,000 dan gaji kepada guru-guru pelawat agama bermula dari \$720-\$1,000. Mereka menambah, tuntutan pegawai agama tersebut adalah amat menasabah di mana hanya lebih 120 sahaja daripada gaji akhir kepada guru-guru dan Kategori C dan sebagainya. Sebab yang mereka mengatakan begini, ialah sebagaimana mereka membandingkan, yang saya dengar kebanyakan guru-guru sekolah kebangsaan sebagai guru besar yang gaji mereka boleh dikatakan hari ini dinaikkan oleh Kerajaan, kita ucapkan terima kasih, saya tidak menentang di atas kenaikannya, tetapi ada setengah daripada guru-guru besar yang tersebut yang mana guru-guru di bawahnya ada yang lapan orang, ada yang 10 orang, ada yang paling tinggi sekali 40 orang, tetapi guru-guru pelawat ataupun sebagai nazir, ataupun pegawai agama yang dinamakan ini, tanggungjawab di bawah

mereka tidak kurang daripada 80 orang, bahkan ada yang lebih, tetapi kalaulah dibandingkan dengan gaji mereka ini amatlah sedikit dan tidak menasabah.

Dengan sebab itu, saya merayu dan saya berharap kepada Kerajaan Pusat yang mana saya tahu kedudukan hal ugama Islam ini adalah di bawah tanggungjawab Kerajaan Negeri masing-masing, tetapi sebagai Kerajaan Pusat yang bertanggungjawab kepada keseluruhannya dapatlah mengseimbangkan agar menasabah yang mana ugama kita sebagai ugama rasmi dan dengan ini juga bila gaji orang-orang yang bekerja sebagai guru

ugama, pegawai ugama dan sebagainya tertariklah dengan ugama Islam.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Panjang lagikah ucapan Ahli Yang Berhormat?

Tuan Shaari bin Jusoh: Panjang lagi.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Kalau Panjang lagi, Ahli Yang Berhormat boleh sambung esok. Dewan ditangguhkan sehingga pukul 2.30 petang esok, hari Selasa, 19hb November, 1974.

Dewan ditangguhkan pada pukul 6.30 petang.